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*California's  
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# CALIFORNIA'S STATE CAPITOL



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CULBERT L. OLSON  
GOVERNOR

State of California  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO

*To the Citizens of the State of California*

*My Fellow Californians:*

*There is such a vast wealth of material in the romantic and colorful history of our State that much of it, too often, is neglected or unknown. It therefore gives me real pleasure to commend to all Californians and those who come to visit us this volume on California's State Capitol.*

*The work is much more than the ordinary guide book in that it presents an exceedingly readable history not only of the capitol building itself, but of the boisterous origin of our State and its peregrinating legislatures. It is profusely illustrated with photographs which in themselves tell the story of the development of the capitol and its surrounding park into the beauty spot it is today.*

*No other work to my knowledge contains so complete a history of our capitol building and its historic background, and in my opinion this book forms an invaluable addition to our store of Californiana. I am gratified to be able to recommend this volume to the reading public.*

*Respectfully yours*

CULBERT L. OLSON  
Governor of California

# CONTENTS

|                                            |    |
|--------------------------------------------|----|
| A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR . . . . .      | 3  |
| PREFACE . . . . .                          | 9  |
| INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPITAL CITY . . . . . | 11 |

## I

### CALIFORNIA: THE THIRTY-FIRST STATE

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Alta California . . . . .         | 17 |
| "Capitol on Wheels" . . . . .     | 25 |
| The Wheels Stop Rolling . . . . . | 43 |

## II

### A GUIDE TO THE CAPITOL

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| General Information . . . . . | 52 |
| The Exterior . . . . .        | 55 |
| The Interior . . . . .        | 59 |
| Capitol Park . . . . .        | 79 |

## III

### APPENDICES

|                                           |    |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| Chronology . . . . .                      | 86 |
| Governors of California . . . . .         | 86 |
| Building Measurements . . . . .           | 92 |
| State Buildings . . . . .                 | 92 |
| Glossary of Architectural Terms . . . . . | 93 |
| Bibliography . . . . .                    | 94 |



## ILLUSTRATIONS

|                                                                                       | PAGE |                                                                     | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| The Capitol rises in majestic grandeur . . . . .                                      | 6    | The Capitol, 1879 . . . . .                                         | 45   |
| <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                                              |      | <i>California State Library</i>                                     |      |
| The Capitol and Capitol Park in 1940 . . . . .                                        | 8    | Construction during the 60's . . . . .                              | 46   |
| <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                                              |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| Capitol of the Golden State . . . . .                                                 | 10   | The completed Capitol . . . . .                                     | 50   |
| Fragrant oleanders . . . . .                                                          | 12   | Magnolia blossoms . . . . .                                         | 51   |
| <i>McCurry</i>                                                                        |      | <i>McCurry</i>                                                      |      |
| Palms after the rain . . . . .                                                        | 13   | Vista across the park . . . . .                                     | 54   |
| <i>McCurry</i>                                                                        |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| State Capitol and Park in the early 80's . . . . .                                    | 14   | Massive granite gateposts . . . . .                                 | 57   |
| <i>California State Library</i>                                                       |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| Framed in foliage against the sky . . . . .                                           | 16   | Isabella and Columbus . . . . .                                     | 58   |
| <i>McCurry</i>                                                                        |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| The dome at night . . . . .                                                           | 18   | First-floor rotunda . . . . .                                       | 60   |
| <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                                              |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| West front of the Capitol in the 90's . . . . .                                       | 19   | Second-floor rotunda . . . . .                                      | 66   |
| <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                                   |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| Spanish irises proudly raise their heads . . . . .                                    | 23   | Section of the inner dome . . . . .                                 | 67   |
| <i>McCurry</i>                                                                        |      | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| Seats of State Government, 1849-1869 . . . . .                                        | 24   | State Capitol and Park in the early 90's . . . . .                  | 68   |
| <i>California State Library</i>                                                       |      | <i>California State Library</i>                                     |      |
| Colton Hall in Monterey . . . . .                                                     | 26   | An inhabitant of Capitol Park . . . . .                             | 77   |
| <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                                   |      | Elms in brilliant fall foliage . . . . .                            | 78   |
| Old Statehouse at Benicia . . . . .                                                   | 28   | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                                   |      | Canary Island palms . . . . .                                       | 80   |
| Sacramento's Second County Courthouse . . . . .                                       | 39   | <i>Frederick-Burkett</i>                                            |      |
| <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                                   |      | State Printing Office at 15th and L Streets,<br>1872-1923 . . . . . | 81   |
| Time's shadows creep over a pedestal of<br>bronze and granite . . . . .               | 40   | <i>California State Library</i>                                     |      |
| Two pages from original Constitution of<br>State of California [1849] . . . . .       | 41   | Agricultural Pavilion, 1884-1905 . . . . .                          | 81   |
| <i>A. M. Larwick</i>                                                                  |      | <i>California State Library</i>                                     |      |
| The dome, brilliant with incandescents<br>. . . is mirrored in quiet waters . . . . . | 42   | Double white-flowering peach trees . . . . .                        | 82   |
| <i>A. M. Larwick</i>                                                                  |      | <i>McCurry</i>                                                      |      |
| Senate Chamber "when the Capitol was<br>young" . . . . .                              | 44   | Rock garden in eastern section of park . . . . .                    | 84   |
| <i>California State Library</i>                                                       |      | <i>McCurry</i>                                                      |      |
|                                                                                       |      | When winter fell on Capitol Park . . . . .                          | 91   |
|                                                                                       |      | <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                 |      |
|                                                                                       |      | Another winter scene in the Park . . . . .                          | 95   |
|                                                                                       |      | <i>D. L. Joslyn</i>                                                 |      |

## DIAGRAMS

|                             |    |                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|
| First-floor plan . . . . .  | 64 | Third-floor plan . . . . .  | 72 |
| Second-floor plan . . . . . | 70 | Fourth-floor plan . . . . . | 76 |



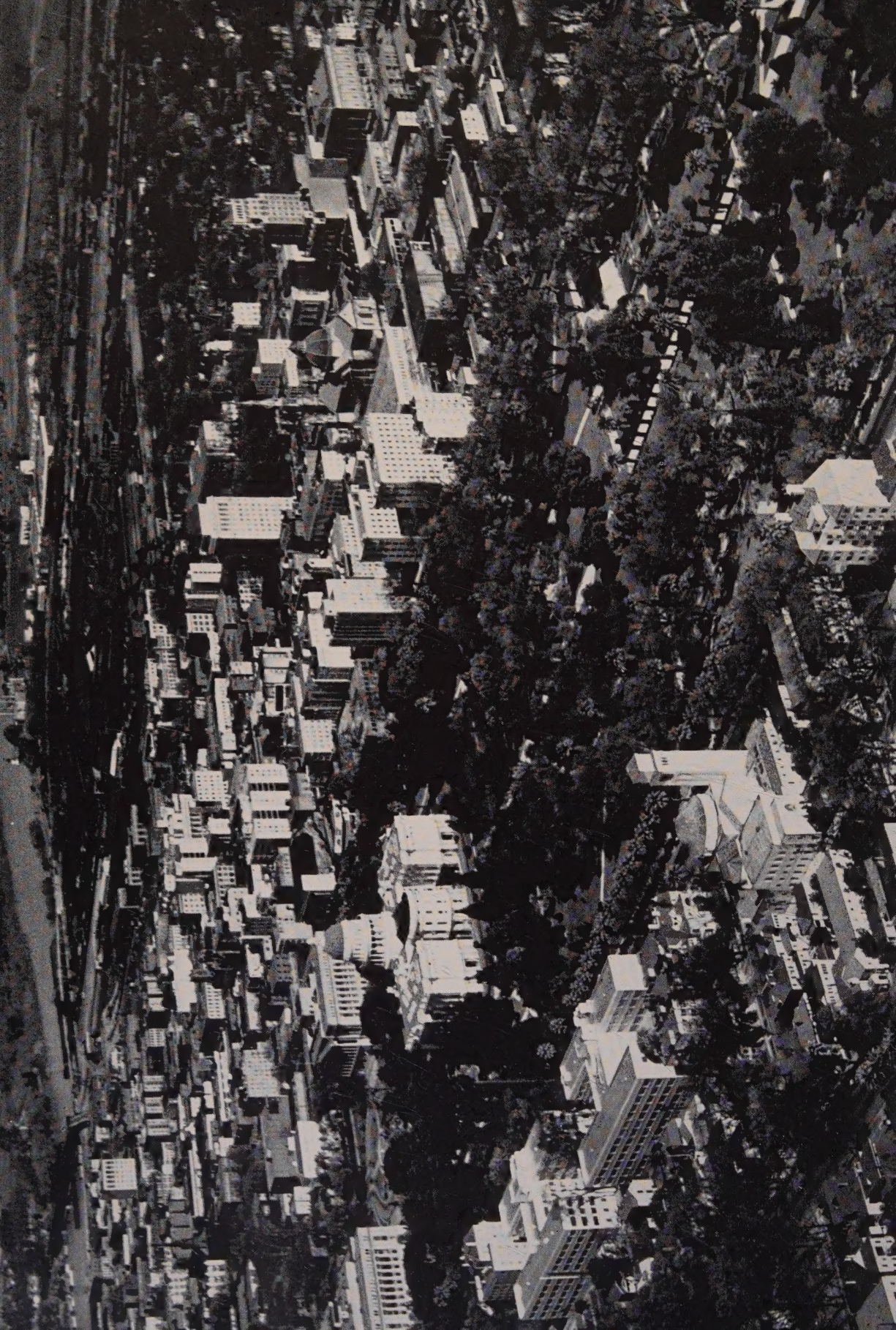




# CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

*The Capitol  
rises in majestic grandeur  
over lofty trees in  
thick-set groves*







## PREFACE

California lacks nearly a decade before it celebrates its hundredth year as one of the United States, but within the rich and colorful years since its admission to the Union in 1850—little more than the normal life span of one man—it has grown from a string of frontier settlements facing the wide and lonely Pacific into the Nation's fifth most populous State (it is the second largest). This book is designed to tell the people of California the story of their Capitol and, in the telling of that story, to reveal something of the history of their State Government. The story begins a year before California's admission to the Union: it begins in 1849, for the people of California could not wait; they called a Constitutional Convention in that memorable year before Congress had yet granted them Statehood. The story's prologue begins even earlier, for California was discovered 50 years after Columbus discovered America and settled seven years before the Thirteen Colonies drew up their Declaration of Independence. It has no ending, for California's story is not yet all told.

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WALTER McELROY

*State Supervisor, Northern California Writers' Program*

### *The Capitol and Capitol Park in 1940*

*In the left foreground are to be seen a modern apartment, a church, the Motor Vehicle and Public Works Buildings, another apartment, the Library-Courts Building across the circle parkway with its sparkling fountain leading to State Building No. 1. To the right tall office and club buildings, a cathedral, hotels, large stores and other great office structures push westward to the river*





*Capitol of the Golden State*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPITAL CITY

Soaring above the roofs and treetops of California's capital—the inland city of Sacramento, at the heart of the State's vast and rich mountain-rimmed Central Valley—is the green, golden-tipped dome of the State Capitol, visible in the sunlight against a blue sky for miles away across the flat valley floor. It stands almost midway between San Francisco's Golden Gate to the Pacific Ocean and mountain-girdled Lake Tahoe on the eastern flanks of the rocky Sierra beside the Nevada Line.

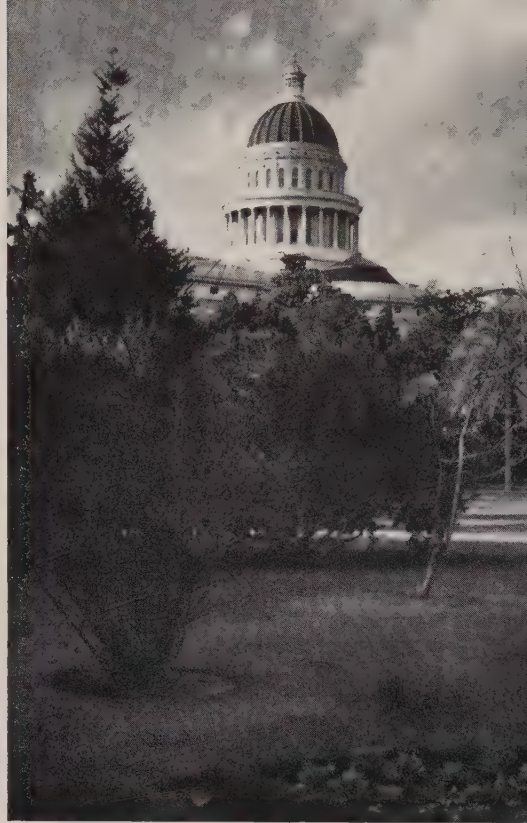
Since 1854 the City of Sacramento has been California's State capital. To many Californians it is only "the capital"—a lawmaking mill, from which issue periodically new restrictions, sometimes puzzling, brought about by legislators whom most of them have never seen. In many other States the capital is also the chief city, and most residents have journeyed to it at one time or another; but a man might well live out his life in California, particularly in southern California, without ever having seen Sacramento.

That, however, would be his loss, for Sacramento is more than California's capital and its largest interior city (105,958 population); it is also a remarkably interesting town in its own right, whose history—brief though it may be in the eyes of Easterners or Europeans—is crowded and colorful. No mere colony of civil servants, it is an important agricultural, manufacturing, and transportation center. It has grown from John August Sutter's lonely estate of New Helvetia in the midst of a vast unsettled valley into a thriving city of bustling business streets, railroad yards, river docks, and canneries; park-surrounded government buildings; and miles of quiet, tree-shaded residential avenues.

Lying on a level plain at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers, Sacramento commands California's inland basin, on the main rail lines between West and East. The fertile reaches of the Sacramento Valley stretch northward 150 miles; the San Joaquin Valley's fruit orchards, farms, and vineyards, southward for 250 miles. Observed from the 247-foot dome of the Capitol, bare summits of the Coast Range block off San Francisco Bay to the west. In the east rise the gold-bearing foothills of the Mother Lode; beyond, the blue bulk of the Sierra Nevada.

To begin with, Sacramento was a river town: one of the main gateways to the mines of the Mother Lode in the days of '49. The traffic up the river toward the mines made Sacramento. Its selection as the capital of a four-year-old State, when the town itself was little older, assured its future. Now it has large industrial and commercial interests, since it feeds and is fed by the fertile delta region of the Sacramento River, which loops around its western boundary.

The California Legislature meets biennially, in the odd years. Even when the Legislature is not in session, Sacramento is the permanent seat of State Government and







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## INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPITAL CITY

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the usual residence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and their aides. It holds somewhat the same relation to the State as Washington does to the Nation—it is a place where government is the chief industry and where social life centers around that industry. Unlike Washington, however, it was not ready-made for this purpose and has never wholly given itself over to it.

In the heart of the city the glistening white Capitol rises from green terraces, its piercing dome rising high above ornate pillars and pediments above the spreading greenery of Capitol Park. It is approached by low flights of steps shaded by trees planted almost 70 years ago—now so tall and densely leaved that they obscure all but the upper part of the building and its dome. Visible from almost any point in the city and surrounding countryside, the dome even can be seen (on very clear days) from as far away as the summit of Mount Tamalpais north of San Francisco.

Built in the days when river boats still carried downstream the wealth of the diggings—that yellow metal which made California the “Golden State”—the Capitol was begun in 1860, finished in 1874. It has been modernized and improved several times; major remodelings occurred in 1906-08, in 1928, and in 1939. In all, the total expenditure on building and grounds has exceeded \$3,000,000.

Architect Miner Frederic Butler designed the edifice in the modified Renaissance style sometimes called Federal or Republican. When ground was broken for it, the National Capitol in Washington was having its low flat dome replaced by a tall colonnaded dome like those of the Pantheon in Paris and St. Paul's in London. The change undoubtedly influenced Butler's plans.

Until the fifteenth century the dome of a building had lain close to its supporting roof. But Bramante, architect for the proposed cathedral of St. Peter in Rome, had a mighty vision: he declared that for St. Peter's he would take the dome of the Pantheon and hang it in the sky. He did not live to see the consummation of his work—it was Michael Angelo who finished the cathedral—but since the day when St. Peter's was completed, a rounded dome borne high above a building has been an architectural device almost unrivaled in beauty and dignity.

When first completed in the 70's the Capitol rose majestically from low terraces, its massive exterior relieved, in the Renaissance manner, by an exuberant procession of statues poised on a balustraded railing and set off by broad expanses of green lawn. Terraces were dotted with shrublike infant trees; grounds were surrounded by a neat white picket fence—a necessary barrier to wandering cows and horses. Surrounding streets were dusty in summer and muddy in winter: a thick plank sidewalk offered refuge for the polished boots of legislators and the trailing skirts of their ladies.

*Palms  
after the rain*

*Fragrant  
oleanders  
(left)*







*The Capitol and Capitol Park in the early 80's*

In the days when the Capitol housed all the departments of the State Government, its offices were (says the *California Blue Book* of 1899) "beautifully and uniquely decorated and furnished \* \* \*. The walls of the rooms are tinted and the ceilings and friezes are decorated with the seal of the State and with flowers, such as roses, magnolias, or wild flowers, or scroll work touched up with gold leaf as the central idea; or they are painted to represent a piece of tapestry or an oriental rug." In succeeding years, as the functions and duties of State Government have multiplied—branches of the State Government now occupy seven large buildings in Sacramento, two in San Francisco, and one in Los Angeles—such evidences of the tastes for the picturesque of the Capitol's early decorators have disappeared, victim to successive modernizations designed to enhance its adaptability to utilitarian purposes.

But memories of the Capitol's opulence remain. They make understandable the wistful tone in which old-timers say, "I wish they had left it the way it was."

I

CALIFORNIA  
THE THIRTY-FIRST STATE





*Framed in foliage against the sky*

## ALTA CALIFORNIA

The history of the State Capitol of California begins not with the laying of its foundations nor with the passing of the act by which the Legislature authorized its construction. Neither does it begin with a description of the four predecessors of the present Capitol, nor with the conquest of California in 1846 and the governmental setup that bridged the years between the conquest and 1849, when the Constitutional Convention met. For clarity, the history must go back beyond the discovery of the land that is today California to the discovery of the lands in the Western Hemisphere by Columbus in 1492.

For 50 years following the discovery of the islands of the West Indies, the Spanish were busily engaged in proving to themselves that they had not discovered the rich land of Cathay and her attendant islands and in exploiting the mainland that lay west of the West Indies.

Not until 1542 did Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, with two tiny ships built at Navidad on the western coast of New Spain, sail northward on the western ocean to discover whether the land we know today as Baja California was an island or a part of the mainland. He also hoped, in the land that lay beyond, to find a waterway piercing the continent that barred the route to the fabulous "spice islands" of the Orient. On such a waterway ships from Spain might sail west without having to endure the weary voyage around Cape Horn, during which many sailors died from scurvy.

The first white men to see our California sailed north from San Diego Bay along a bold coast and said of it: "There are mountains which reach the sky, and the sea beats upon them. When sailing along near the land, it seems as if the mountains would fall upon the ships." They probably saw the entire coast of California, but found no waterway flowing from the east. The word carried back by the crew—for Cabrillo died and was buried off the California coast—was that the land was forbidding and bore no evidences of wealth.

### CALIFORNIA IS SETTLED

Drake, Cermenho, Vizcaíno each in turn sailed the western ocean and saw the mountainous coast. But almost a quarter of a century passed before Spain decided to occupy the land north of Baja California. In 1769 the Viceroy of New Spain sent an expedition led by doughty Gaspar de Portolá and that militant religious, Padre Junípero Serra, and these two founded San Diego. The next year they dedicated Monterey for the royal crown, and there the red-and-yellow banner of Spain fluttered over a few brush-roofed, mud-daubed huts where 20 Spanish and Indians held Alta California.

Jointly church and army ruled the province, where slowly, slowly settlements increased. When New Spain revolted from the mother country in 1821 and became Mexico, a mere sprinkling of poverty-stricken settlements and missions along 500 miles of coast constituted Mexican Alta California.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### FORERUNNERS OF IMMIGRATION

While the western edge of this continent slowly was being settled by the Spanish, rebellious British colonists on the Atlantic Coast were hacking at the strands that tied them to Britain. After the revolutionary wars they bound the 13 Colonies into the United States of America. Then during early years of the nineteenth century, little streams of emigration flowed from the East Coast to the broad Mississippi Valley, leaving a froth of settlers along the way. Spain, and later Mexico, admonished Alta California against permitting foreigners to enter the province, but a few did enter in the early nineteenth century. These embraced the church and became citizens of Mexico.

Fur-seeking trappers penetrated unknown western plains and mountains and filtered into Alta California from east and north. Enterprising ship captains, venturing into the Pacific, traded with Spanish *rancheros*, exchanging calico, iron pots, shoes, tools, jewelry, gunpowder, and manufactured articles in strange variety for hides and tallow, fresh and dried beef, and an occasional mouth-watering delicacy of fruits or vegetables. California, of course, was completely pastoral. There were no industries. The *rancheros'* only revenue came from their sprawling land grants where Indians in a state of semipeonage raised cattle.

### END OF THE PASTORAL ERA

By 1830 the distant control of Alta California from Mexico began to irk the native-born *Californios*. Political feuds with officials from Mexico and between branches of the intricately ramified families of California covered the province with a net of intrigue. The historian Robert Glass Cleland says that Mexico, torn by revolutions and in economic chaos, could not control the distant province. By 1840 "the old California, with its Spanish institutions and habits and background, stood close to the end of its tranquil romantic day."

In 1844 a revolt against Governor Manuel Micheltorena left Pío Pico of Los Angeles head of the province. The removal of the center of government from Monterey only served to intensify the differences between the northern and southern sections. "And," said Josiah Royce, "the rest of the political history of California,

*The dome at night*  
From *Library*  
and *Courts*  
Building

[ 18 ]



until the time of our conquest, is one of intrigue and petty quarrel."

### MANIFEST DESTINY

Although the Middle West was a vast untilled empire, the land-hungry American people voiced their growing conviction that the western boundary of the United States should be the Pacific Ocean, from whence they could control rich oriental trade. Indeed, not many years elapsed before the people of the United States believed so strongly in their "Manifest Destiny" to extend the United States from ocean to ocean that a war with Mexico, which owned the Southwest and the West, became almost inevitable.

Into the receptive ears of hundreds of restless farmers in the United States poured stories of the "land of perennial spring and boundless fertility"

where winters were mild, where cattle multiplied without care, where grain scattered in scratched ground increased a hundredfold.

Efforts were made to add the desired territory peaceably. President Jackson tried to buy the province of California; annexation was President Taylor's plan; President Polk returned to a cash sale. In 1823 the Government formulated the Monroe Doctrine to prevent foreign settlement. Now the Government grew uneasy lest Mexico cede California to England, and Royce says that during 1845 it was busily preparing for a Mexican War.

In the meantime three ways of acquiring California were suggested, and each was followed to some degree. One plan was to seize the Department of California as an act of war as soon as hostilities with Mexico began; another was to undertake the colonization of the country by an unnaturally rapid immigration of Americans into it. A third plan of strategy was to take advantage of the strained relations already



*West front of the Capitol in the 90's*



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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existing between California and the mother country and by means of intrigue to get the land through the act of its own native inhabitants.

Commodore John D. Sloat was sent around the Horn in 1845 when relations with Mexico became strained, with instructions that as soon as war began he was to capture and hold Alta California, so that after the impending war the Government could cheaply acquire the continental Mexican provinces.

In 1846, the year of the "great immigration," about 600 persons crossed the plains to California. And no doubt the majority of those immigrants believed, as did those who had gone before them, that the country to which they were going ultimately would be part of the country they were leaving. By the end of that year about 2,000 of an estimated 10,000 persons in Alta California (not including Indians) were foreigners, most of whom had come from the United States.

In this uneasy atmosphere of intrigue and dissatisfaction, American Consul Thomas Larkin did his best to wean allegiance from Mexico.

### AMERICAN CONQUEST

Commodore Sloat, in the harbor of Mazatlan, received official word in June that a state of war existed with Mexico and sailed for Monterey, arriving there July 2d. The town was deserted—General José Castro and his army had gone south to wrest command of the province from Pío Pico—and when Sloat demanded the surrender of California, there was no official present with whom he could deal. Finally, on July 7, 1846, Sloat landed a force of men, marched them to the Monterey Customs House, had the Flag of the United States raised, and proclaimed that California was annexed to the United States.

John Bidwell, who was at Sonoma with John C. Frémont during the Bear Flag Revolution, says "the first conquest of California in 1846, with the exception of the skirmish at Petaluma and another toward Monterey, was achieved without a battle. We simply marched all over California, from Sonoma to San Diego, and raised the American Flag without opposition or protest. We tried to find an enemy, but could not. So Kit Carson and Ned Beale were sent east, bearing dispatches from Commodore Stockton announcing the entire conquest of California by the United States."

But a month later the south revolted, "and then for the first time there was something like war." A few sharp battles were fought, in one of which the Americans were harassed by a little gun which the galloping *Californios* would drag up, turn around, fire at the troops—using solid shot about the size of an orange—and then drag away, the little gun bounding along behind them as they galloped off. But the *Californios*, whose wars were usually highly dramatic but bloodless, were no match for the American soldiers, and at Los Angeles on July 10, 1846, Stockton, Kearny, and Frémont accepted the Californian surrender. A few days later Stockton issued a

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## ALTA CALIFORNIA

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proclamation which stated that California was now a part of the United States and that as long as a state of war existed, the territory must be governed by a military man. The system of government, however, was to be that used in California prior to the conquest as long as it was not in conflict with the "laws, constitution and treaties of the United States."

As captured territory, California was ruled by a succession of military governors—Sloat, Stockton, Kearny, Mason, Smith, and Riley—who carried on with the Mexican governmental system while waiting for Congress to set up the badly needed civil government for the new territory. Unfortunately this government was not forthcoming. Slavery was a bitter issue in 1846; of the 30 States of the Union, 15 were for slavery and 15 were against it. California's admission into the Union would have made one side a minority. Senators also claimed that California's population of a questionable 100,000 did not warrant its admission as a State, that it had no authority to formulate a constitution. In 1847, in 1848, and in 1849 Congress adjourned without having passed the act that would have declared California a Territory of the United States, and so left it without courts where cases could be tried and land titles made secure.

### GOLD IS DISCOVERED

Late in January, 1848, James Marshall, who was building a sawmill at Coloma for John August Sutter, rode to Fort Sutter in the driving rain to show Sutter bits of yellow metal he had picked out of the tailrace. Simple tests proved the metal to be gold. California's most spectacular, most exciting era began so unnoticeably, so slowly, that it was the end of May before the Reverend Walter Colton in Monterey, still the capital of California, wrote in his diary: "Our town was startled out of its quiet dreams today, by the announcement that gold had been discovered on the American Fork. The men wondered and talked, and the women too; but neither believed."

Acting on the principle that where there is smoke there must be fire, Colton sent a messenger to the mines with instructions to return with samples. The man returned June 20th with specimens, "which all admitted \* \* \* were gold, except one old man, who still persisted they were some Yankee invention, got up to reconcile the people to the change of flag. The excitement produced was intense \* \* \*". Indeed, so intense was the excitement and so general the exodus that Colton, Governor-General Mason, and Lieutenant Lanman "had to take to the kitchen, and cook our own breakfast. A general of the United States Army, the commander of a man-of-war, and the Alcalde of Monterey, in a smoking kitchen, grinding coffee, toasting a herring, and peeling [*sic*] onions."

When news reached the Atlantic Coast that gold lay in the streams and hills of California to be picked up by the first who found it, emigrants by hundreds sailed, rode, or walked to California in such numbers that the population reached the



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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"incredible" figure of 26,000 in December, 1848. In August of the next year 50,000 persons were here. Prior to this influx of gold-seekers, the adaptation of Mexican government set up by the military-civil governors had served California fairly well. In August word was received of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which the province of Alta California became part of the United States; but it made little change in the existing order of things. A memorial reciting the history of events during this period was presented to Congress March 13, 1850; it stated that "desire for a more congenial government went on steadily increasing \* \* \* but, an uncertainty seemed to pervade the whole country, exercising a chilling and depressing effect \* \* \*."

### THE PEOPLE DEMAND BETTER GOVERNMENT

In the winter of 1848, northern California towns—already plunged into hectic confusion by the daily struggle of outfitting miners enroute to the diggings—found themselves filled to overflowing when winter drove the miners out of the diggings. Old residents of 1846 and 1847 who had come to settle regarded the Forty-niners with a "certain conservative dread." But the fermenting population felt, "as all Americans feel," said the 1850 memorial to Congress, "that the most important step they could take, and that most imperatively called for by the wants of the inhabitants, was the establishment of a stable system of government, which would command the respect and obedience of the people whose property it protected, and whose rights it preserved. Congress had adjourned without providing a Territorial Government, and the public had settled into the firm conviction that the *de facto* government was radically defective, and incapable of answering the public wants. The large increase in the emigration during the past year, the still greater prospective increase in the year to come, the increased wants which daily were growing from a rapidly rising and extending commerce, and the growing demands of an enterprising and progressive people, all required a new and compatible system of government. Recent murders, highway robberies, and other outrages in various portions of the country had convinced the honest and the orderly that anarchy, misrule, and wrong were abroad in the land.

"\* \* \* a very excited and bitter feeling of hostility to this *de facto* government [of Riley] was quite universal \* \* \* this feeling was strengthened by the failure of Congress to pass a bill establishing a Territorial Government in California, and the passage of a law for the collection of revenue."

At a mass meeting at San Jose on December 11, 1848, the people of California were asked to organize in districts and elect delegates to "a convention for the purpose of forming a '*Provisional Territorial Government*,' to be put into immediate operation, and to remain in force until Congress should discharge its duty, and supersede it by a regular Territorial organization." Mass meetings were then held in San Francisco, Sacramento, Monterey, Sonoma, and San Jose—five cities which were the centers of districts containing more than three-fifths of the population of California.

Delegates to the convention and a few local legislators were elected. Governor Riley had been confident that the current session of Congress would provide a civil government, but when Congress again adjourned without having taken any action on the admission of California the people felt that "Congress had abandoned the Territory to its own resources."

Governor-General Riley, therefore, on June 3, 1849, issued a proclamation which stated that it had become "our imperative duty to take some active means to provide for the existing wants of the country" and called upon the people to elect a convention to form a State Constitution. He also called for the election of necessary officers under Mexican usages to hold office until the State Government should get under way. He divided California into 10 districts, from which 35 delegates were to be elected to attend a Constitutional Convention in Monterey on September 1, 1849. The enthusiastic voters, however, elected 48 delegates; throughout the latter part of August, on horseback and by stage, they converged on the little town of Monterey, the only capital Alta California had ever had.



*Spanish irises proudly raise their heads in welcome to the springtime sun*





*Sacramento 1852-1854*



*Vallejo 1852-1858*



*Monterey 1849*



*San Jose 1849-1851*

*Benicia 1853-1854*



*Sacramento 1855-1869*



## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

In Monterey stood Colton Hall, "a truly neat and spacious edifice of yellow stone." A pillared portico decorated the facade of the two-story building, and each floor was lighted by six windows. Sheltered by the portico was a second-story balcony; french windows led to it from the hall. Here delegates took the air and admired the view of sparkling Monterey Bay. The upper floor then was reached only by a rear staircase.

Monterey had neither a State House nor a place of public assembly in 1846 when the Reverend Walter Colton, U. S. N., was appointed *alcalde* (Sp., mayor). After first building a jail, Colton set its occupants, in March, 1848, to quarrying stone in the nearby hills for a town hall. It is true that the first news of the gold discovery aroused so little attention that work on the building did not halt, but when a sailor—sent by Colton to discover the truth of this strange rumor of gold loose on the ground so that anyone might gather it—returned with 156 ounces of beautiful gold that to Colton glistened like the yellow scales of a dolphin, carpenters threw down their planes and saws and, shouldering picks and pans, trekked to the gold fields.

Work on the building was resumed later, and on March 8, 1849, Colton wrote in his diary: "The Town Hall on which I have been at work for more than a year is finished \* \* \* The lower apartments are for schools; the hall over them—70 feet by 30—is for public assemblies. The front is ornamented with a portico \* \* \* It is not an edifice that would attract any attention among public buildings in the United States, but in California it is without a rival. It has been erected out of the slender proceeds of town lots, the labor of convicts, taxes on liquor shops, and fines on gamblers \* \* \* The citizens have assembled in it and christened it after my name which will go down to posterity with the odor of gamblers, convicts and tipplers." The walls and ceilings were lathed and plastered, such a novelty in that time that: "Thousands came to see the work; it was the lion of the day."

Bayard Taylor, an Eastern writer who came to California in 1849 to witness the excitement of the Gold Rush, attended the convention and wrote an excellent and entertaining account of it. There was not a single hotel in Monterey then, and quarters were scarce. A few delegates rented rooms, for which as much as \$200 a month was paid; some were housed in the barracks; and "nearly all brought with them their blankets to Monterey, like the foxes and birds, they had to look for holes and nests." Four hotels, opened before the convention ended, were most welcome.

The only restaurant in town, the *Fonda de la Union*, "was an old, smoky place not uncomfortably clean \* \* \* The charges were usually \$1 per meal; for which we were furnished with an *olla* of boiled beef, an *asado* of beef and red pepper, a *guisado* of beef and potatoes, and two or three cups of execrable coffee." This restaurant received such a flood of *pesos* that several more were opened quickly.





*Colton Hall in Monterey*

## THE CONVENTION

Observing the convention in the one-room upper story of Colton Hall, Taylor wrote: "A railing, running across the middle, divided the members from the spectators. The former were seated at four long tables, the president occupying a rostrum at the further end, over which were suspended two American Flags and an extraordinary picture of Washington, evidently the work of a native artist. The appearance of the whole body was exceedingly dignified \* \* \*

Later he said: "In some respects the political history of California for the year 1849, is without a parallel in the annals of any nation \* \* \* the results of the gold discovery produced a complete revolution in society, upturning all branches of trade, industry or office, and for a time completely annulling the Government \* \* \* the authorities were without power to enforce their orders, and there seemed no check to restrain the free exercise of all lawless passions. There *was* a check, however—the

steady integrity and inborn capacity for creating and upholding law, of a portion of the old American settlers and emigrants newly arrived."

Of the 48 convention delegates, seven were native-born Californians, seven were old residents, and 34 were newcomers from various parts of the world. Californians who had held positions in the previous Mexican regime were the eminent Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo from Sonoma, José Antonio Carillo and Manuel Dominguez from Los Angeles, and Pablo de la Guerra from Santa Barbara.

Long-established settlers from the States who had been accepted by the Mexican Government were Thomas O. Larkin and Abel Stearns from Massachusetts, Julian Hanks from Connecticut, Robert Semple from Kentucky. Eminent latecomers from the States were H. W. Halleck, O. M. Wozencraft, W. E. Shannon, Edward Gilbert, and W. M. Gwin. From across the Atlantic came Hugo Reid from Scotland, Pedro Sansevain from France, and, most notable of all the foreigners in California, John August Sutter, lord of New Helvetia, who claimed Switzerland as his birthplace.

The 36 American delegates had been citizens of 13 of the 30 States that then composed the Union; 12 of the 36 had come from New York State. Residential periods in California varied from the "all my life" of the Mexicans to periods of four months to one year recorded by nine delegates. Stearns had been in California for 20 years, Larkin for 16, and Sansevain for 11. Sutter and Julian Hanks had arrived 10 years previously. The two youngest delegates were 25; the oldest was 53. The average of all their ages was 36  $\frac{1}{3}$  years, a mature age for that time.

Professions were almost as varied as origins; delegates wrote themselves down as merchant, farmer, surveyor, lawyer. The United States Navy and Army were represented. Trader, banker, physician, negotiant, printer were there. Vallejo described his profession as military, while B. F. Moore, who had come from Florida but one year before, for his occupation inscribed simply "Elegant Leisure."

### THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of 1849, California's first under a democratic form of government, began with the words: "We, the people of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings, do establish this Constitution."

One of the first questions discussed—should the Constitution they had met to form be for a territory or for a State?—received a rapid decision. The Constitution should be that of a State, and as a State California would apply for admission to the Union.

The convention safeguarded the inalienable rights of man to freedom and independence, established a government for and by the people, guaranteed freedom of religion and speech, trial by jury, and the writ of habeas corpus. Slavery was prohibited and the rights of foreigners were protected.

Legislative power was vested in a two-house Legislature and executive power in a chief magistrate to be styled the Governor of the State of California. The judicial power was vested in Supreme, district, and county courts and in justices of the peace.

While debate was at times acrimonious and at times farcical, the only question which roused the delegates to heated controversy was: what should be the bound-





*Old Statehouse at Benicia*

aries of California? The largest amount of territory mentioned included all that ceded by Mexico to the Government of the United States, but the convention finally decided it would be prudent not to make the State too large, and the boundary lines which were finally agreed upon are almost the same as those of today.

Among the duties of the Constitutional Convention was that of recommending a State capital; and it was deemed proper that a quiet town removed from the confusion of trade should be selected. Practically all the towns of importance in the State, as well as some that consisted of only a few houses, presented their claims. Offers of space and buildings, however, were not entirely altruistic. Communities hoped to recoup their advances many times over.

During the session, two men from the booming little town of Pueblo de San José were sent galloping over the hills to Monterey to offer Washington Square in their town as a capitol site and to assure delegates that suitable buildings would await them. After hours of debate the convention accepted the offer and named Pueblo de San José the capital—with the qualification that, by law, it might be moved elsewhere.

Lieutenant Henry Halleck, Secretary of State for Governor Riley and a delegate to the convention, engrossed the Constitution on parchment. With his hand so

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## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

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swollen that it could hardly hold the quill, he labored all night so that the Constitution would be ready to sign on October 13, 1849. A grateful convention voted him \$500 for his work.

As the first delegate signed the historic document, a signal flag was run up, the guns at the fort began firing a salute to the States, "the echoes reverberating grandly around the bay." While the signing continued the guns boomed slowly, firing once for each State in the Union. Delegates counted the reports. At the thirtieth shot all stood motionless until "the loud ring of the thirty-first was heard; there was a shout: 'That's for California!' and everyone joined in giving three times three for the new star added to our Confederation." The work of the convention was finished and it adjourned, not to meet again.

Cheering lustily, delegates proceeded in a body to the house of General Riley, where, with an enthusiastic speech, Sutter presented to him the Constitution.

For their services delegates received \$16 a day; other salaries varied from \$12 to \$28. This money was paid from duties received from incoming merchandise at the Port of Monterey. Taylor said the money was "principally silver, and at the close of their labors, it was amusing to see the members carrying their pay about town tied up in handkerchiefs or slung in bags over their shoulders. The little Irish boy, who acted as page, was nearly pressed down by the weight of his wages."

The Constitution was rushed to San Francisco and printed as a pamphlet. One thousand copies in English and 300 copies in Spanish were distributed, so that the electorate could read the Constitution before voting on it. When a copy finally arrived in the office of the Sacramento *Placer Times*, that paper, which had devoted very little space to the convention, gave its opinion that anyone who read the Constitution would vote for it.

### ELECTION DAY

The convention failed to take into consideration the "unusual" quality of California weather when it named November 13th as election day. Instead of having normally pleasant fall weather, when the electorate would have trooped to the polls, all California was drenched by cold winter rains, and droves of voters, inclined toward personal comfort, stayed at home. At Lower Bar, Bayard Taylor wrote: "The Election Day dawned wet and cheerlessly. \* \* \* Few people were stirring about the place and they wore such a forlorn look that all idea of getting up a special enthusiasm was at once abandoned \* \* \* The election was held in the largest tent in the place, the inspectors being seated behind the counter, in close proximity to the glasses and bottles, the calls for which were quite as frequent as the votes \* \* \* The votes polled mounted to 105, all of which were for the Constitution. The number of miners on the bar, who were entitled to vote, was probably double this number \* \* \* Some were kept across the river by the high water and others refused to leave the comforting warmth of their huts or tents.

The grand total of ballots cast in the entire State was only 12,875, an unimpressive figure to Congress, whose members said tartly when they were considering California's admission that a Territory should not aspire to become a State unless it had



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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a population of at least 100,000. Population figures here passed well beyond that figure, however, before the slow-moving Congress decided to admit California.

The Constitution received 12,064 votes. Peter H. Burnett was elected Governor. Senators and Assemblymen were chosen as members of the first Legislature, which would convene at San Jose December 15, 1849.

Robert Glass Cleland comments that the general apathy and lack of interest shown in the workings of the State Government by the electorate had an unfortunate result: "\* \* \* political control passed almost entirely out of their keeping into the hands of a few skillful, energetic men, whose bitter rivalry for control of party machinery added an exciting though unedifying element, to the otherwise monotonous course of local politics."

### THE LEGISLATURE IN PUEBLO DE SAN JOSE

Pueblo de San José was founded in 1777 when 14 Spanish families settled in the smooth Santa Clara Valley, there to raise much-needed grain for the *presidios*. Sprawling *ranchos* gradually covered the fertile valley, but the *pueblo* remained a small settlement of adobe and wattle huts. With the onset of gold-seekers, the town, as did most of California, profited by outfitting them and grew.

In the early summer of 1849, Bayard Taylor said that San Jose—as it came to be known—"one of the most flourishing inland towns in California \* \* \* was mainly a collection of adobe houses, with tents and a few clapboard dwellings, of the season's growth, scattered over a square half-mile" around the customary plaza. But in November he said: "The two weeks which had elapsed since San Jose had been made a capital were sufficient to have created a wonderful change. What with tents and houses of wood and canvas, in hot haste thrown up, the town seemed to have doubled in size. The dusty streets were thronged with people; goods for lack of storage room, stood in large piles beside the doors; the sound of saw and hammer, and the rattling of laden carts, were incessant. \* \* \* Hotels were springing up in all quarters; French restaurateurs hung out their signs on little one-story shanties; the shrewd Celestials had already planted themselves there and summoned men to meals by the sound of their barbaric gongs. \* \* \* The price of lots had nearly doubled \* \* \* so that the town lost nothing by its gift of the legislative building to the Government."

### STATE HOUSE AT SAN JOSE

San Jose's growth in the early part of 1849 encouraged settlers Sansevine and Rochon to build a two-story adobe hotel on the east side of Market Square—an oblong building of adobe, 60 by 40 feet in size, "adorned with a piazza in front." On a gloomy rainy Saturday in the middle of December, a few disheartened legislators surveyed this building, termed "an unfinished box." Only the one-room upper story assigned to the Assembly was finished; so the Senate met for a few weeks in the house of Isaac Branham on the opposite side of the plaza.

Peter H. Burnett, the first elected Governor of California, was sworn in December 20th and the Legislature began its dual task of organizing the government by day and seeking comfort at night.

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## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

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Judge Sexton of Oroville said that "no sooner was the Legislature fairly organized than the members began to growl about their accommodations. They didn't like the legislative building and swore terribly between drinks at the accommodations of the town generally. Many of the solons expressed a desire to remove the capital from San Jose immediately."

San Jose did its best to make the legislators welcome with a grand ball on December 27th. Refreshments, mostly liquid, were plentiful. Since women were so infrequent in San Jose that carpenters laid down their tools and rushed to the door to see one go by, the countryside was "raked for ladies and the affair was made gay by red and yellow flannel petticoats of whirling Spanish women." Governor Burnett and Colonel Frémont and their wives stood in the receiving line. Some of the guests they met had come from as far as Benicia, braving stormy weather and rough water in a "Lilliputian steamboat."

### MOISTURE WITHOUT AND WITHIN

San Jose was wet during the winter of 1849-50; 36 inches of rain fell between October 28th and March 22d. Life in a town where most of the buildings were but "rows of tents and cloth houses, some composed of boards and cloth, banked up with mud," must have been vastly uncomfortable. It is hardly surprising that the delegates kept the inner man so well fortified that they were known as the "Legislature of a Thousand Drinks." According to historian Hubert Howe Bancroft, this designation was occasioned "through the facetiousness of Green of Sacramento, who for lobbying purposes, kept a supply of liquors near the state-house \* \* \* whenever the Legislature adjourned, he cried to the members, 'Come, let us take a thousand drinks!' Crosby says: 'There were a few roistering men in the Legislature, more in the Assembly, the Senate being a small body, and composed of very circumspect gentlemen.'"

A reminiscing member of that Legislature wrote: "They were good drinkers—they drank like men. If they could not *stand* the ceremony upon any particular occasion, they would *lie* down to it with becoming grace."

California's first Legislature was nevertheless a hard-working one. It drafted a code of laws, divided the State into 27 counties, and provided means of revenue for the government. This last was indeed a difficult task, for State scrip was below par; and until California was recognized as a State by Congress, sale of her bonds was infrequent and for poor prices. Hubert Howe Bancroft called the Legislature at Pueblo de San José the best California ever had, but added the sardonic comment that "all were honest—there was nothing to steal. Their pay was no inducement, as they could make thrice as much elsewhere."

### AN ENGLISHMAN VIEWS THE LEGISLATURE

William Kelly, an Englishman who wrote *A Stroll Through the Diggings*, was a little prejudiced in his view of the frontier lawmakers, but his contemporary remarks are interesting. He looked in upon the Senate, which met in "a large, ill-lighted, badly ventilated room, with a low ceiling, and a rough railing, a little inside the door, beyond which none but the elect may pass. Each member had a rush-bottomed



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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armchair, and a small desk with stationery, which was not in much requisition. At the farther end, the Speaker was perched in a species of pulpit; the floor was covered with a number of little carpets, of various shapes and patterns, looking as if every member contributed a patch to make up the robe \* \* \*

He also viewed the Assembly in its room, which, though "of precisely the same size \* \* \* has the advantage of greater loftiness, and exhibits at once the difference of grade betwixt the two bodies in the style of the furniture; plain common chairs, flat deal tables, and a strip of matting thrown where the feet are erroneously supposed to rest. \* \* \*

"There was no order of debate or system of discussion, but a turbulent dinning colloquy, made up of motions, interruptions, assertions, and contradictions; several members generally on their legs at the same time, and those with legs on the tables adding to the tumult by the music of their heels."

From the first day that the legislators met in San Jose they complained about the inadequacies of the tent town as a State capital and talked removal. They yearned for beds and for meals that did not cost them their \$16 per day in scrip. But when they adjourned on April 22, 1850, San Jose remained the capital.

### STATEHOOD

On September 9, 1850, President Millard Fillmore signed the bill that admitted California to the Union. The U. S. S. *Oregon*, carrying the news from Washington on the long trip around Cape Horn, steamed into San Francisco Bay on October 18, 1850, with pennants flying and guns booming to announce its Statehood to California. Boarding a stage in San Francisco, Governor Burnett made the 50-mile drive to San Jose—probably the most rapid journey he ever experienced. On the "smooth, dry, hard prairie \* \* \* the drivers put their mustang teams to the utmost of their speed. As we flew past on our rapid course, the people flocked to the road to see what caused our fast driving and loud shouting, and without slackening our speed in the slightest degree we took off our hats, waved them around our heads and shouted at the tops of our voices 'California is admitted to the Union.' Upon this announcement the people along the road cheered as loudly and heartily as possible. I never witnessed a scene more exciting, and never felt more enthusiastic."

The second Legislature assembled in San Jose January 6, 1851. Governor Burnett, whose private interests were conflicting with his political career, resigned January 8th and his Lieutenant Governor, John McDougal, was sworn in on January 11th.

### VALLEJO'S DREAM

To encourage still-disgruntled legislators, citizens of San Jose agreed to accept at par State scrip, which was low, and offered land on which to build a new capitol. But nothing could withstand the persuasions of General Vallejo. His offers were fabulous: 156 acres of land facing San Pablo Bay; \$370,000 within two years for public buildings, including a capitol that would cost \$125,000; other public buildings, a State university, botanical gardens, schools, hospitals, asylums, and a State penitentiary that, placed on a hill, with "formidable walls, immediately on the great highway to our

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## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

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inexhaustible gold mines, will stand as a warning to the shiploads of rascals congregating hither \* \* \* It is said that the general had his pockets full of deeds to lots in his proposed capital which he presented to any who would vote for his plan.

The Act of Removal was passed February 14, 1851, thereafter to be submitted to the electorate for ratification. The outraged people of San Jose promptly "refused to take State scrip for San Jose board, charged double prices for everything, and when on the tenth of May, the solons finally pulled up stakes and left there was not thrown after them the traditional old shoes, but an assorted lot of mongrel oaths and Mexican maledictions."

At the October election the town of Vallejo received a large proportion of the votes cast, although it later was claimed that less than a quarter of the electorate voted. "The Capitol on Wheels" began to roll.

Early in January, the town of Vallejo—variously referred to as "the great wind-hill site at the head of shoal water navigation," the "hide-and-go-seek corner of San Pablo Bay," or "a few scrubby looking hills"—showed signs of great activity. Workmen swarmed over the temporary State House General Vallejo was building. Hotels, saloons, and houses were being put together as rapidly as possible to accommodate the two or three hundred persons who were expected in Vallejo on January 5th.

An old engraving of the State House pictures a two-story wooden building perched on a steep little hill at the water's edge. Today a bronze plaque on the corner of York and Sacramento Streets in Vallejo marks its site. Bancroft says: "The \$125,000 capitol so far was a rather insignificant two-story building with a drinking-saloon and a skittle alley in the basement—the third house, as it was ironically called."

As a meeting place for the two Houses, the building was adequate, but it lacked committee rooms, or in fact any space where preparatory work could be carried on outside of the legislative halls.

The Sacramento *Daily Union's* correspondent, writing from Vallejo on January 4, 1852, said it would take "four days of constant labor for 20 men to prepare the capital for the reception of the two Houses. The furniture, fixtures, etc., are not yet in their places; many of them have not yet arrived at Vallejo \* \* \* no printing materials in town \* \* \* few or none of the buildings in town finished \* \* \* music of the saw and hammer heard night and day."

Upon this scene arrived the steamer *Empire*, with 250 passengers aboard, 50 of whom were members of the Legislature. The captain, aware of the almost non-existent accommodations at Vallejo, laid in three months' provisions in San Francisco and prepared to moor his steamer with its 100 cabins and "commodious saloon" at a Vallejo wharf while the Legislature remained in session. Those not fortunate enough to live on the *Empire* searched for quarters elsewhere. Again the contemporary *Union*: "When there are not more than two men sleeping on a single cot, the night can be passed for a consideration of \$5; but where a man becomes so prodigal as to purchase the exclusive privileges of a settee or a line of stools, it is perfect destruction on the purse."



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### SEVEN DAYS AT VALLEJO

After their first glimpse of the unfinished, miserable town, the Legislature protested vigorously that the buildings General Vallejo provided were worse than those at San Jose, that therefore he had broken his contract. Consequently, they reasoned, Vallejo was no longer the State's capital.

Undoubtedly Vallejo was a wretched place to spend January, and had it rained the Legislature unquestionably would have fled. Living quarters? There were none. Food? It was termed "amusingly scarce" by a Sacramento newspaper, but it was not amusing to those in Vallejo. Linen became quickly soiled, and there was at first not one washerwoman in the village. The only barber shop was "an extemporaneous affair conducted by an Ethiopian." Every stage brought additions to the already overcrowded and unhappy population.

In the State House no rostrum had been provided for the Speaker, and (reported the *Alta California*) members had to sit upon "nail kegs with boards placed across the open head, or upon benches, which now and then break under the weight of legislative dignity and let down a row of honorable gentlemen flat on the floor to the great hazard of the gravity of the House." As Vallejo had no suitable place to store the State Archives, they had been returned to San Jose, and the Supreme Court was sitting in San Francisco; this made an "insupportable division of government."

Vallejo put forth superhuman efforts to hold the capital. Buildings were rushed to completion. On January 9, 1852, a petition from six housekeepers was placed before the Legislature, begging it not to move and pledging themselves to furnish every convenience in six days. But Sacramento was "tendering the hospitality of the city to the Legislature and offering the courthouse to the State free of expense." A seductive description of the building, which contained long-desired committee rooms and a fireproof vault for the use of the Treasurer, was included in the offer.

### THE LEGISLATURE DEPARTS

All during January 11, 1852, the Assembly was occupied in violent argument over the question of removal, but the bill it finally agreed upon failed to pass the Senate. The next day all difficulties were solved. Vallejo would remain the "permanent capital of the State," but the "temporary seat of government" would be at Sacramento. On January 12th the Legislature adjourned, to convene at Sacramento on Monday, January 16th.

At four that afternoon the steamer *Senator* left Vallejo with a hilarious party on board; it steamed into Sacramento with its whistles screaming and docked at 3 a.m. the next morning. The *Empire* abandoned its temporary status as a Vallejo hotel and left for Sacramento later in the evening; it was noted that "hilarity was the order of the night."

Said the *Alta California*: "Sacramento levees from O to J were crowded as the *Empire* hove in sight and she was greeted with the firing of cannons." Flags were liberally displayed and all public houses were thrown open to legislators.

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## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

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January 16, 1852, was a busy day for the Legislature. Aching heads had to be assuaged; both Houses met in the courthouse and quickly adjourned. That night they attended a welcome ball given by the citizens of Sacramento, who assessed themselves \$20 apiece for the pleasure.

### SACRAMENTO IN 1852

In 1852 the business section of Sacramento lay along Front Street, parallel to the river, where goods were unloaded from ships that plied the Sacramento. In addition to its permanent population, the "Fair City of the Plains" had always an enormous shifting population, for it was the largest city north of San Francisco and the great supply house for inland and mining towns. Countless pack trains, freight wagons, and stages ground its streets to dust during the dry season and churned them to mud during the wet one. No less than 14 stages a day left Sacramento that year.

Reported an early issue of the *Family Circle and Parlor Annual*: "The streets were regularly laid out, crossing at right angles, and some of them closely built for over a mile \* \* \* Vessels of the largest class, in considerable numbers, lay moored to the bold, precipitous banks of the river. The steamer *Senator* was now running regular trips from San Francisco, landing her passengers on the bank by means of a plank, thirty dollars being the price of a passage to San Francisco. Boarding and eating houses had become abundant \* \* \*" John Carr, who visited the city in the early fifties, wrote: "The mercantile houses were generally one-story frame or iron houses imported from the east. The amount of business done in Sacramento at that time was immense, the streets from early morning until night being full of great wagons and pack trains loading goods for the mines. Everything was bustle and excitement \* \* \* At night the gambling houses were crowded, with bands playing, tables loaded with gold and silver, bars fitted up in elegant style with liquor of the choicest brands and everything that ingenuity could invent to make the guilded [*sic*] parlors attractive. \* \* \* From dark to early dawn these houses were crowded."

Of Sacramento County's courthouse, a wooden two-story building, 80 by 60 feet, the *Union* had said in December, 1851 (a few weeks prior to the building's completion): "Sacramento can now boast of the finest and most commodious courthouse in the State; the building is by far superior to any in the city \* \* \* The design of the main entrance is very neat and in good taste. Four fluted columns will support a balcony, surrounding which there will be a handsome iron railing. The building will be ornamented with a neat cupola, in which a bell is to be suspended, and a clock also will show its face and hands to late witnesses and trembling culprits."

In honor of the Legislature, "ravines" in I Street were filled up, a plank walk was laid on Seventh Street between J and I Streets, and a Negro chain gang was set to removing stumps from I Street, because "the Capitol being on this thoroughfare, the improvement is the more desirable."

The Legislature worked steadily in Sacramento, got through a deal of work, and adjourned May 4, 1852.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### A MONTH AT VALLEJO

On January 5, 1853, the Legislature convened once again at the "permanent capital" to begin its third session. The weather was cold and blustery and accommodations in Vallejo were little better than they had been the previous year. The *Sacramento Daily Union's* reporter wrote that "adjournment in all probability will occur to some other place." Sacramento was too busy emerging from flood waters and scraping off the mud to be greatly interested in the Legislature; so "for the present, the capital will remain perched upon the tops of the windy and barren hills of Vallejo."

Over the weekend "members fled in every direction for food and shelter." This was considered "highly detrimental to the interests of the State, apart from the total unfitness of many members to discharge properly their duties on their return." Only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and part of Fridays did the Legislature function.

About the middle of January a report was published that the first three sessions of the Legislature had cost the State \$1,105,000, of which sum the previous session, divided between Vallejo and Sacramento, accounted for \$409,008.80. Not unreasonably, public opinion demanded that the Legislature settle down and do the work for which it was being paid.

Transportation and communication were insufficient at Vallejo, although the J. B. *Wheeler* made a daily round trip between San Francisco and Vallejo, a mule stage operated between Vallejo and Benicia, and Wells Fargo ran a 4 o'clock express from Vallejo to San Francisco while the Legislature was in session so that its proceedings could appear in print without delay. Benicia was more accessible, for all river steamers stopped there, providing frequent service to San Francisco. While it was doubtful that the Legislature and its entourage of clerks, lobbyists, friends, and enemies could all find comfortable lodgings in Benicia, many more could be accommodated there than at Vallejo.

### OFF TO BENICIA

When Benicia, through its mayor, offered "to donate the free use of their new City Hall to the Legislature, to provide suitable offices for the State officials, and to pay the expenses of the removal," the legislators gave the matter serious consideration. But they also had to consider the fact that Vallejo was California's legal capital. However, it was becoming quite obvious that General Vallejo could never fulfill his elaborate plan for a State capital. He could not do anything more for the State than to present it with the temporary State House and half of his holdings of 26,000 lots in the town.

The Legislature did not like this offer; so General Vallejo asked that he and his associates be released from their \$500,000 bond, which they had filed as surety that the capital at Vallejo would be built. In turn he was asked to execute a release to the State against any claim on his part for damages.

Bills of removal volleyed back and forth between the two Houses. Finally, on February 4th the "House concurred on the Senate bill ordering the seat of government to be removed instantan from this place to the City of Benicia." The Legislature adjourned February 4, 1853, to meet at Benicia on February 11th. Vallejo, "third ex-capital" of California, immediately emptied itself of its transient population.

### BENICIA, THE THIRD CHOICE

Those two enterprising Californians, Robert Semple and T. O. Larkin, in 1846 acquired land on the shore of Suisun Bay from General Vallejo, there to found a town named Francisca in honor of the general's wife. When almost simultaneously Yerba Buena took to itself the name of San Francisco, Señora Vallejo's second name, Benicia, was honored. On the half-moon of land between the hills and the bay, lots were sold and a few houses built. The town grew but slowly. A visitor of 1849, Theodore T. Johnson, wrote that the "house of Mr. Cooper, with one or two other houses, and 10 or 11 shantees [*sic*] comprised the then population of the city."

In 1852 Benicia presented a braver appearance. It had a reputed population of 1,000. Ocean-going ships as well as river craft tied up to the piers and wharves that fringed the waterfront. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company made its headquarters here in 1850; in that year, on land deeded to the United States, Major General Persifer F. Smith established a California Ordnance Depot; and in the same year a military post also was established.

Benicia's two-story City Hall was a roomy, substantial brick building with a shingled roof. Two Doric pillars and four pilasters ornamented its simple facade. Each floor had a large legislative chamber and several rooms for committees. This building, on the north side of G Street, is still in use, its ground floor occupied by a museum. The Assembly Hall in the upper story was completely furnished on February 11th, the day set for the Legislature to meet, but the Senate Chamber was bare. However, a quorum was not present; so the Legislature duly was adjourned.

Innkeepers were reported as making every effort to please the legislators. For a while no complaints were heard. Settling down to work in the new quarters, the Legislature performed its duties until May 19, 1853, when it adjourned.

### BENICIA LOSES THE CAPITAL

During the summer and fall of 1853 it seemed to be commonly recognized that Benicia was not large enough to serve as a capital of California. Shortly after the Legislature convened on January 2d of that year a special message from the mayor and common council of Sacramento offered to provide the Sacramento County Court-house for free use as a State House, suitable rooms for State officers and fireproof vaults for the records; to remove the Legislature and all furnishings from Benicia free of charge; and to give as a building site for a permanent capitol a block near the center of town—all this if Sacramento should be declared the capital.

This was a handsome offer, and the legislators must have been in favor of the removal, for at Benicia "every room and bed that could be had for love or money was occupied Monday," the opening day of the session, and at least a hundred men had no place to sleep except barrooms of saloons. Since the weather in Benicia also was disagreeable, there is little doubt that Sacramento's offer would have been accepted quickly had not a question of politics arisen.

David C. Broderick, Senator from San Francisco to the first, second, and third Legislatures, was a politically minded Irishman from New York City, where he had received training in Tammany Hall. His deep-seated ambition was to become



United States Senator from California. It is said his adherents firmly blocked the removal to Sacramento until assurance was received that Broderick's ambition would be gratified. The session in Benicia further was enlivened by the trial of the senator from Butte County, who had been approached by one of Broderick's friends on a steamer trip from Sacramento; he was accused of accepting money in return for his support of Broderick. The trial ended in his acquittal. If Broderick's men threw their weight finally behind the removal to Sacramento, Broderick must have been vastly disappointed, for 1857 came before he went to the Senate.

Meanwhile in Benicia, acts of removal shuffled between the houses. Amendments were proposed and rejected. Finally, an act which repealed all former acts "in relation to" a State capital and which provided that Sacramento should be the capital of California received confirming votes in both Assembly and Senate. It was signed by Governor Bigler on February 25, 1854.

That same afternoon, after archives and furniture were loaded on the *Wilson G. Hunt*, which had been chartered by the City of Sacramento, members of the Legislature climbed aboard and started up the river.

The *Wilson G. Hunt* arrived at Sacramento the morning of February 26, 1854. The *Sacramento Daily Union* reported that "from the moment the gallant steamer hove in sight, till her prow touched the landing, a discharge of cannon was kept up at regular intervals, intermingled with the shouts of an immense multitude of people, who had assembled on the levee to witness the spectacle and give *eclat* to the joyful occasion. The Sutter Rifles, in their gayest uniforms and with a superior band of music, were also on the ground, and formed the van of a procession which escorted his Excellency the Governor and the other dignitaries to the Orleans Hotel." Speeches were made and rifles fired, while the crowd cheered.

Sacramento at this time had 55 hotels. Many streets were planked; fireproof buildings were rapidly taking the place of cloth and wood houses; a stout levee would repel floods. The State population that year was said by the *Union* to be 264,435, of which 154,612 lay "east, west and north of Sacramento." It was the center of the "most complete and extensive system of staging on the Pacific Coast." Steamboats made frequent trips, and the city had telegraph connections.

As the Legislature settled into its work, the papers approvingly noted that members were able to work on Mondays and Fridays, as they had not done at either Vallejo or Benicia.

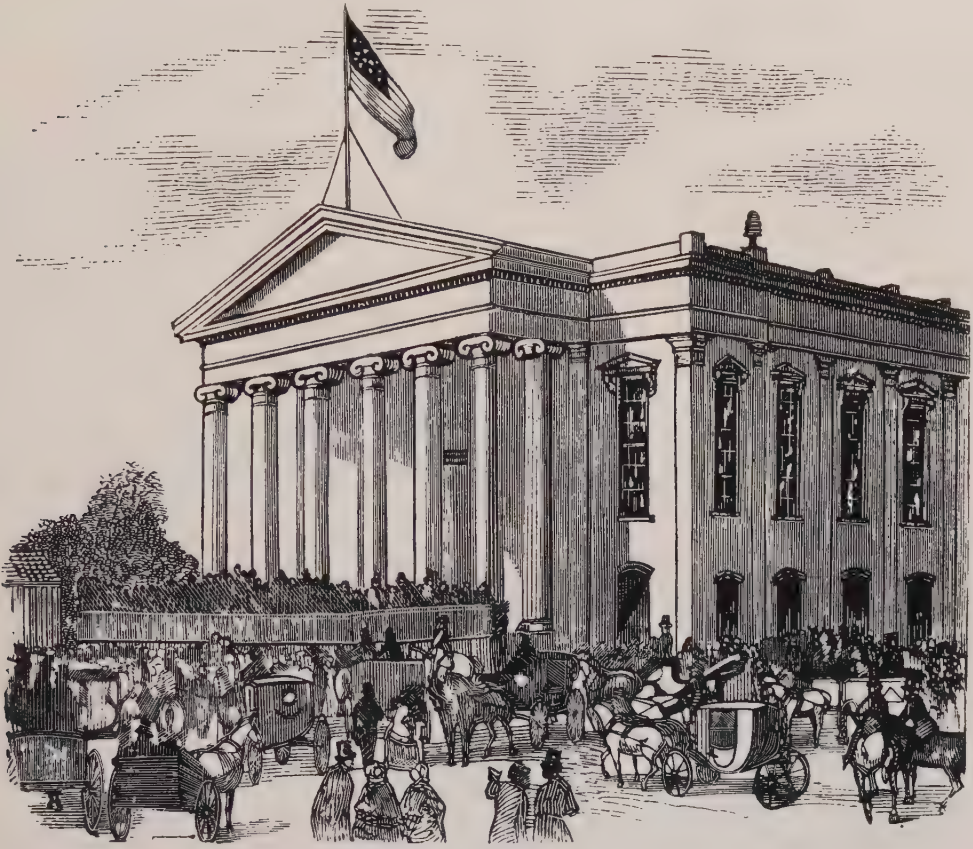
### SACRAMENTO'S SECOND STATE HOUSE

The old courthouse or State House was destroyed in the fire that blasted Sacramento July 13, 1854. A larger building was planned immediately for the same site as citizens rebuilt Sacramento with amazing speed. Plans for a new and larger county courthouse were prepared, the cornerstone was laid September 27, 1854, and the building was hurried to completion in January, 1855, so that the session of the Legislature would not be delayed. At that time a Grecian or Roman style was considered indispensable for a public building and the courthouse, to be no exception to the rule, was Ionic. The handsome two-story building had a broad portico across the

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## "CAPITOL ON WHEELS"

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*Sacramento's Second County Courthouse*

facade, supported by eight fluted pillars with Ionic capitals. The second floor, 80 by 120 feet, was large enough to contain both the Senate and Assembly chambers and nine rooms for clerks and officers of the Legislature. The Controller and Treasurer had offices with fireproof vaults on the ground floor. For this building the State paid \$12,000 a year until it moved into the present Capitol. When the Legislature moved, the building continued to serve as a courthouse for Sacramento until 1909, when it made way for the present (1941) building on the same site.

Of the new Sacramento a contemporary writer, James G. Read, said: "After four years, in which she had been in turn desolated by flood and pestilence, consumed by fire, and shook [*sic*] by civil commotion, we will look at her as she stands in her pride of wealth and power. We will look at her extensive levees, her commodious



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

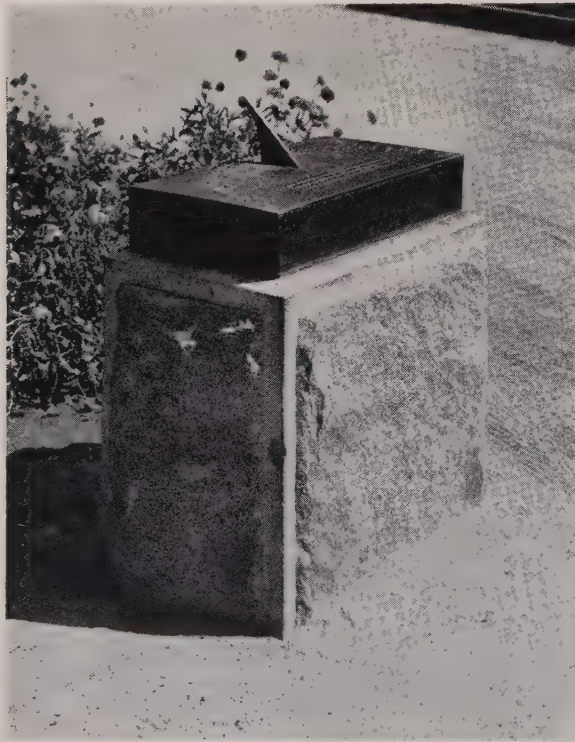
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wharves, her noble lines of storehouses, her magnificent post office, her elegant and spacious church, and other public buildings; her fine hotels and her palace-like private residences, and who can forbear astonishment?"

### A CAPITOL ON PAPER

While the Legislature was still at Benicia, Sacramento had offered the State the block bordered by Ninth, Tenth, I, and J Streets as a site for a capitol. In 1856 the Legislature voted to issue \$300,000 in bonds to finance a capitol upon the block-square site. Reuben Clark planned a handsome building in the Corinthian style with four wings around a central rotunda and a dome which would tower 132 feet above the surrounding streets.

This proposed forerunner of the present Capitol, however, did not materialize. Shortly after ground had been broken for the foundations, the Supreme Court decided that the bond issue would increase the State debt beyond the limit imposed by the State Constitution, and the project lapsed. The site, one of the blocks designated as a park by John August Sutter when Sacramento was first platted, reverted to the city. Today elms grow tall on it.



*Time's shadows  
creep over  
a pedestal of  
bronze and granite*

## of the

## STATE of CALIFORNIA.

*We the People of California,  
grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to  
relax this prohibition.*

## Article I.

## Declaration of Rights.

### Section 1.

All men are by nature free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; and pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sec. 2.

All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of the people, and they have the right to alter or reform the same, whenever the public good may require it.

See 3

The right of trial by jury shall be secured to all, and remain inviolate forever; but a jury trial may be waived by the parties in all civil cases, in the manner to be provided by law.

## Sec. 4.

The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall never be allowed in this state; and no person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his opinions on matters of religious belief; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this state.

Sec. 5.

*The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require its suspension.*

Sec. 6.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor shall cruel or unusual punishments be inflicted, nor shall witnesses be unreasonably detained.

TWO PAGES FROM THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA [1849]





*The dome,  
brilliant with  
incandescents  
and fringed  
with great trees,  
is mirrored in  
quiet waters  
of the fountain's  
pool*

## THE WHEELS STOP ROLLING

The "Capitol on Wheels" had stopped rolling. San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose beckoned enticingly to the Legislature, but the seat of government remained at Sacramento. During several years, bills for a suitably imposing capitol fluttered through the Legislature; finally, at the end of March, 1860, a bill approved by both Houses was laid on Governor Downey's desk for his signature. The bill permitted the City of Sacramento to acquire four blocks of land and present it to the State as a site, appropriated \$500,000 as a construction fund, and appointed a commission to superintend the erection of a capitol. The commission received seven plans in response to advertisements, chose that submitted by M. F. Butler, and appointed Reuben Clark as superintending architect. Detailed drawings and working plans would be prepared by Clark as the work progressed.

### THE CORNERSTONE IS LAID

On September 24, 1860, ground was broken for the foundations. Work progressed far more slowly than had been expected, but on the afternoon of May 15, 1861, Sacramento closed its stores and paraded to the Capitol grounds. The cornerstones, quarried at Folsom, were laid in the presence of a crowd which the *Union* estimated at "not less than 3,000 persons \* \* \* The scene, from an elevated position, taking in the large and animated concourse of spectators on foot and horseback, in carriages and country wagons, the diversities of sex and age, the fluttering of banners and miniature flags, some of which were worn as aprons by the young misses on the ground, and the air of festivity, which pervaded the whole assemblage was gratifying beyond expression. Simultaneously, with the opening exercises on the platform, the Union Guard saluted the day and occasion by frequent explosions of well rammed cartridges. \* \* \* A hermetically sealed metal box was placed in the lower stone, and the upper stone was let into place. The ceremony was conducted with Masonic rites, which ended with the wish: 'May an all-wise, bountiful Providence grant to the people of this commonwealth an abundance of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy.'"

To support the weight of a building so great as the one architect Butler had planned, strong foundations were needed; they were patterned, therefore, after those of the 250-year-old Spanish fortress at Panamá, an example of what is probably the strongest type of construction known. The foundations extended deep below the basement floor. Those supporting the outer walls and the rotunda were 18 feet wide at the base; those under the inner walls, 9 feet. Over concrete laid at the bottom of a trench, brick was laid in diminishing courses, so that the foundations curved inward as they rose to meet the walls.

The Capitol was well and strongly built. Records of its construction, however, are incomplete. The architects who superintended the builders worked from



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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general plans, solving problems as they occurred. Although such minor records as a receipt for camel's-hair brushes still exist, the architect's drawings—even the original plans—have vanished.

### THE LEGISLATURE IS FLOODED OUT

The winter of 1861-62 was the wettest ever recorded in California. In December, 9.54 inches of rain fell; 24.36 inches streamed down during January; and although in February a mere 7.53 inches fell, melting snows, roaring down from the mountains, turned the Sacramento Valley into a huge lake 60 miles wide. This was an increase of almost 27 inches over California's normal winter rainfall.

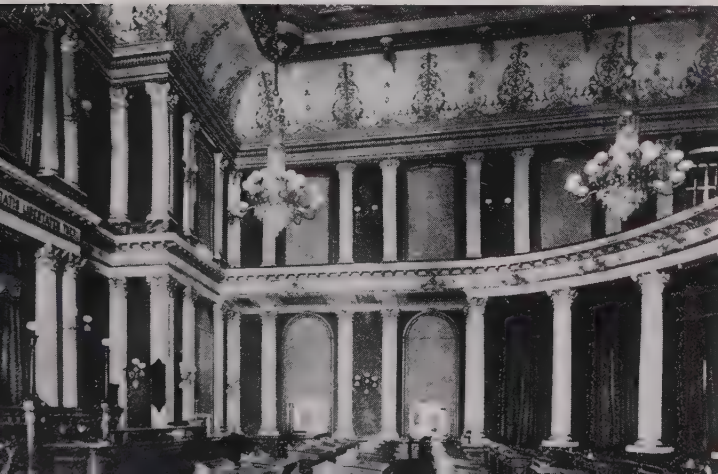
Early in January of 1862, the *Union* was protesting that the streets of Sacramento were high and dry and that the wet season was no worse than those of other years. But on January 10th, Leland Stanford had to step into a boat and be rowed to the Capitol for his inauguration.

Accounts of legislative proceedings during the month were filled with protests, urgent, witty, or ribald. Streets were covered with several feet of water. Although boats were at a premium, legislators insisted on being rowed at State expense. One Senator, declining to pay his own boat hire, said, "I think I am doing my duty and my whole duty, when I eat one meal a day—cold at that—in a garret, and shin down an awning post to get into a boat." The Assembly therewith commissioned the Sergeant-at-Arms to hire boats for them while the emergency persisted. The *Union* decried legislative discomforts, saying: "Men were ready to sacrifice the State because they could not keep their boots polished and their shirt collars standing. And oh, woe [*sic*] the day, because the little buildings in the back yards were overwhelmed in the water."

Since kitchens were flooded, people were reduced to a diet largely made up of bread and cheese. They welcomed steamers from San Francisco laden with cooked food and dry clothing. Even rowboats and crews were sent up.

The Sacramento Valley became an inland sea in which the courses of the rivers could only be traced by the tops of trees growing on their banks. Communications were completely disrupted. Steamers chugged across the valley, carrying cattle to high ground. In Sacramento, fragments of houses, sofas, chairs, and tables bobbed among the buildings and lodged against their walls. Judge Field's residence was on "high" ground, but when the water subsided, two feet of mud remained in the parlor.

The Legislature had moved so often that the question of adjournment to San Francisco roused heated controversy. One exasperated member said, "They would become infamously known as the changing, mud-scow, steamboat moving, forever uncertain legislature of California." However, they did



Senate Chamber  
"when the Capitol  
was young"



*The Capitol, 1879*

adjourn, on January 22d, to embark for San Francisco, where the session continued in the Exchange Building on Battery Street.

In March most of the streets were passable, but William Henry Brewer, who rowed around the still-submerged parts of the city, said, "The new Capitol is far out in the water—the Governor's house stands as in a lake—churches, public buildings, private buildings, everything, are wet or in the water—I don't think the city will ever rise from the shock, I don't see how it can. Yet \* \* \* no people can so stand calamity as this people. Everyone is familiar with the history of fortunes quickly made and as quickly lost. It seems here more than elsewhere the natural order of things." The *Union* said of Sacramento, "Like the Phoenix she has sprung from the ashes of her past ruin, and beautiful as Venus she will now arise from the waves."

Granite walls at the Capitol, which were not then protected by terraces, had to be redressed to remove flood stains, but the *Union* said consolingly: "The work of the dressing last year was so imperfectly executed as to require revising."





*Construction during the 60's*

### THE CAPITOL RISES

When the foundations were completed it was evident that half a million dollars was too small a sum for construction, and in 1863, rather than increase the indebtedness of the State, the Legislature levied a special 5¢ tax on property to establish a Capitol Fund, the tax to continue until building and grounds were finished. In 1866 a second tax of 5¢ was levied. Approval of contracts by the Legislature having been discovered to be unworkable in the first year, Reuben Clark was ordered to continue the work with day labor.

Rates of pay for labor on the Capitol were those current at the time, varying little during the years of construction. Laborers received \$3 a day; stonecutters, carpenters, brickmasons, and teamsters, from \$4.50 to \$5.50; stonemasons, \$6.50 and \$7 a day. Unfortunately for the workers, wages were paid in State scrip which too fre-

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## THE WHEELS STOP ROLLING

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quently sold below par so that they received less than the agreed wage. Complaints and occasional brief strikes for pay in gold, or its equivalent in scrip, marked the course of construction. On the other hand, shelters were built for the stonecutters, and ice was furnished during the hot months; during one August, 6,162 pounds of ice, costing \$92.43, were delivered to the Capitol for the workmen.

Work was intermittent during the 14 years of construction for several reasons. Until the roof was built in 1868, work stopped in the winter, both because wet weather set in and because the year's funds, derived from annual taxes, were exhausted by fall. Supplies contracted for did not always arrive at the stipulated time; during the Civil War many construction items that might previously have been ordered from the East were made in San Francisco, where facilities were limited.

### THE BUILDERS AT WORK

By 1865 the outer walls of the Capitol had risen 12 feet, and the inner walls higher still. Before the end of the year, when the walls were even farther advanced, a doughty lady who believed that the National Flag should fly over the unfinished structure chose the hour when the workmen were at lunch to drag her heavy skirts up two ladders and place the Stars and Stripes above the walls. A note she left said: "Gentlemen, I have had the pleasure of climbing the ladder and placing the Stars and Stripes on this building—a poor but patriotic woman. Three cheers for Uncle Abe and Cabinet. A LADY." Next morning the workmen erected a 75-foot flagstaff and a flag flew there until the building was completed. The lady's identity was not known for many years; she was said to have been married to one of the bricklayers working on the building.

Through 1866 and 1867 Gordon P. Cummings, who succeeded Reuben Clark in 1865 when the latter fell ill, bossed workmen, made construction and detail drawings, as the building continued to grow. Visitors to Sacramento strolled out to see how the Capitol was coming along. As originally designed, it was to be faced entirely in granite, but in 1867 the Board of Capitol Commissioners decided to complete the building in brick. In the same year three small cracks appeared on the northwest wall. An investigation revealed no fault with the foundations or the character of the ground. The cracks were repaired and no more appeared. By 1868 the roof was going on and arrangements were made for interior woodwork. Cummings protested because ornamental ironwork was not being delivered. Later Cummings was succeeded by Albert Austin Bennett, under whose supervision the building was completed.

During 1868, while work on the Capitol forged ahead, San Jose, Oakland, Benicia, and even Santa Cruz, where the Dashaway Club offered the use of its hall, made their bids for the State capital. Special trips were offered—and were accepted by some legislators. Efforts even were made to repeal the taxes which kept construction going in Sacramento, but fortunately they failed.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### THE BIG YEAR

During 1869, the Capitol was a hive of industry. On January 1st the *Union* said: "The skeleton work of the interior already gives evidence of its magnificent proportions and the promised elegance of its architectural finish, particularly the legislative halls and the State Library." Workmen laid the last brick in the rotunda dome. In June a daring soul, far beyond his time, offered to light the Capitol by electricity, but installation of the gas fixtures proceeded. Packets of gold leaf, Chinese vermilion and rose-pink paint, carved moldings and plaster ornaments, roll-top walnut desks, brooms, and stationery flowed in an unending stream to the Capitol.

Late in November, although the exterior of the Capitol was raw and unfinished, the first- and second-floor offices and the legislative halls were ready. Drays and wagons carried furniture, books, and records from the State House. Senators and Assemblymen had new desks and the Governor had a new carpet for his office. Two saloons, on the two corners of M and 10th Streets, opened to be on hand in case any legislator planned to get "something hot."

Thursday, November 25th, "all the gas burners in the Senate and Assembly Chambers and in the new State Capitol generally were lit for the first time," reported the *Union*. "The effect \* \* \* was very fine indeed. Contractors celebrated by opening champagne for employees." And it was added that "introduction of water into the building next week will be similarly celebrated."

On November 26th the offices of the Governor and Secretary of State were opened. The building's "handsome appearance drew forth unstinted praise from the hundreds of ladies and gentlemen who visited it." They deemed the furniture to be "rich, tasty and substantial." In fact, the citizens were so pleased with the building, for which they had donated the site, that they proposed to give a ball in the Capitol itself for State officers and legislators. They suggested that for the celebration the building be lighted from "turret to foundation stones."

The building ceremoniously was occupied by State departments on December 6th, and the Legislature held its first session in its new chambers. Many visitors, including a number of the fair sex, sat admiringly in the visitors' galleries.

On December 9th a purely practical note was sounded in the Legislature. A resolution was offered that a committee should be appointed which would "survey and locate a passable and safe route connecting the Capitol Building with the habitable portions of this city \* \* \* and \* \* \* report as to the feasibility of having this route lighted."

A visitor from San Francisco made a special trip to inspect the Capitol on December 10th. He was that erratic but much-loved character, "Emperor Norton I," in "brilliant clothes and proboscis." Emperor Norton approved of the Capitol and the legislators at work, but he issued a proclamation to the effect that he was grieved to find the streets so dirty and neglected. He stated firmly that he wanted them cleaned up. (Joshua Norton arrived in San Francisco in 1849. He made a fortune in real estate and lost it speculating in rice. The loss unbalanced his mind. He disappeared from San Francisco. "When he returned," said the *Almanac for Thirty-Niners*, "he had a new suit—blue broadcloth with gold buttons and gold epaulets—a retinue composed of two

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## THE WHEELS STOP ROLLING

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mongrels, Lazarus and Bummer—and a new dignity. He was disappointed because his friends hadn't heard that he had been appointed Emperor of the United States. But they soon were informed, because he began inserting proclamations in the papers. \* \* \*)

### THE CAPITOL BALL

The grand climax of an exciting year arrived on the evening of December 15, 1869. Carriages drew up in front of the brilliantly lighted building and from them stepped "ladies and gentlemen representing the wealth, beauty and fashion of the State." The legislative chambers became ballrooms for the occasion and "the magnificent chambers had a most elegant appearance, lit up as they were by hundreds of gas burners, and further illuminated by the beauty and fine toilets of the ladies present." This was from the local paper, but the *Alta California* of San Francisco was not far behind, with: "The display of dress is gorgeous \* \* \* The leaders of fashion from almost every portion of the State are present, and are attired in a manner that bewilders the average man \* \* \* The toilet and jewels worn by one lady are said to represent upwards of \$30,000. \* \* \* There is, of course, no lack of 'Honorable' present. 'Judge,' 'General,' 'Colonel,' 'Senator,' 'Representative,' are the only salutations heard."

"About 12 o'clock," reported the *Union*, "the supper tables located in the long corridor on the first floor were visited. The tables were decorated beautifully with evergreens and flowers. The bill of fare comprised luxuries and substantial in quantity profuse, and in quality all that could be desired. The viands having been done justice to," the party returned to the dancing halls and "tripped the light fantastic" until the hours of early morning.

### FINISHING TOUCHES

Through the early years of the 1870's, construction of the Capitol proceeded. The three porticos were completed in 1872. Their columns were the outcome of another of architect Cummings' losing battles with the Board of Capitol Commissioners. Although he assured them that it was customary to have large columns cast in three sections, the board did not believe that sectional columns were sufficiently dignified for the Capitol. Consequently they were cast in San Francisco as iron monoliths, each weighing about 11 tons. When the fourth was sent up on a river boat, it was accompanied by the man who had contracted to transport it to the Capitol grounds. He brought his 10-horse team with him, and a crowd followed to watch him maneuver the long column through the streets. The *Union* recorded that the only casualty was a skinned hip for one horse.

When the final ornament for the dome was being considered, Cummings insisted that a 16-foot statue was the only proper finish. He fought a valiant but losing fight with the Board of Capitol Commissioners against "the little round top with a gilt ball." He said it was "simply ridiculous and abominable" and that it "would forever be a slur on our taste."

The dome and porticos were completed, the third floor was finished and the interior was embellished according to the decorative ideas of the period, known today





*The completed Capitol*

*From an early engraving*

as the "General Grant." The grounds of the original site, which ended at Twelfth Street, were graded and planted with grass and green trees. In 1874 the Capitol was declared completed.

#### REMODELING OF 1906-08

In 1906-08 the basement was completed, the roof was raised, and offices were installed in what had been the attic floor. The balustrade around the building was removed and, with it, the statues. New fixtures, new plumbing, dynamos, and two electric elevators were installed. The building was rewired and repainted inside and out.

A last reminder of the past was removed at this time, when the area between the wings at the rear of the building was excavated for the existing concrete areaways. The only traces of the iron hitching rings remaining today are a few dark brown spots

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## THE WHEELS STOP ROLLING

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around the granite walls about three feet above the former ground level. Many an elder citizen of Sacramento remembers driving the family carriage up to the Capitol and hitching his horses to these rings before he and his family went in to sit in the visitors' gallery of Senate or Assembly to listen to night sessions of the Legislature.

The Capitol originally was heated by 45 fireplaces with marble mantels. The fireplaces were removed when steam was introduced for heating. Today steam comes to the Capitol from State Office Building No. 1 through a tunnel under Tenth Street. For many years a restaurant and saloon in this corner, a cool retreat on hot days, was known as "The Well."

The Constitutional Convention of 1879, no doubt having in mind the early travels of the Legislature from capital to capital, wrote into the Constitution a section that makes practically impossible the transfer of the capital away from Sacramento. A removal would require a two-thirds vote of both Senate and Assembly in favor of submitting the question to the people of the State at a special election. The question of removal then would be decided by a majority of those voting. It is hardly conceivable that Sacramento will not remain the capital as long as California remains a State and that her Capitol will not be always the one built in California's golden days.



*Magnolia blossoms*



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**LOCATION:** In the western end of Capitol Park, equidistant from Tenth, Twelfth, N, and L Streets. Private automobiles may enter grounds on Eleventh Street, which divides into two one-way lanes encircling Capitol. Paved walks for pedestrians lead through park from all adjacent streets.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Car No. 5, leaving Southern Pacific Terminal, south on Third Street to K Street, east on K Street to Fifteenth Street, south on Fifteenth Street to P Street, east on P Street. Car No. 6, leaving Southern Pacific Terminal, south on Third Street to K Street, east on K Street to Twenty-first Street, south on Twenty-first Street to Oak Park. Motor coach No. 2, north on Ninth Street to K Street, east on K Street to Fifteenth Street, south on Fifteenth Street. Motor coach No. 4, from Sixth and J Streets, east on J Street to Seventh Street, south on Seventh Street to K Street, east on K Street to Fifteenth Street, south on Fifteenth Street. Motor coach No. 7, from Sixth and J Streets, east on J Street to Seventh Street, south on Seventh Street to K Street, east on K Street to Tenth Street, south on Tenth Street.

**CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION:** No charge. Open to public from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. Information available from guard stationed in rotunda. Visitors' galleries in Senate and Assembly chambers open all year; visitors admitted during sessions of Legislature within limit of capacity.

**CHIEF POINTS OF INTEREST:** Rotunda as seen from first floor and second-floor balcony; first-floor corridors, hung with portraits of Governors; Senate and Assembly chambers, seen from galleries on third floor; balcony of dome.

## II

# A GUIDE TO THE CAPITOL





## THE EXTERIOR

The Capitol faces west toward the Sacramento River from a low eminence surrounded by a broad tree-fringed terrace, approached from the main points of the compass by granite walks and steps. E-shaped, it has four stories and a basement. From west, north, and south, it seems to occupy a rectangle 320 feet long and 164 feet wide; from the east, however, it is seen to resemble a capital "E," its center wing rounded on the end. From the center rises the tall green-capped dome, its base surrounded by a colonnade. The gleaming golden ball at its pinnacle is 247 feet above ground level. The vertical lines of the building's main mass with its pilasters set between windows, its archways with deep recesses, its high-columned porticos, offset its long horizontal lines.

From the concrete base of its foundation to the bottom of the green dome, the Capitol is built of hard-burned brick, with a facing of granite ashlar on basement and ground floors and on the archways that support the porticos. This granite, of two distinct shades of gray, came from quarries given to the State by the Central Pacific Railroad in return for the financial assistance needed to turn the dream of a transcontinental railroad into a reality. The lower courses of darker granite were quarried by convicts at the State's newly established prison at Folsom; the sparkling lighter granite came from quarries near Rocklin. Brickwork in the upper stories is smoothly coated with "mastic" (probably plaster in this instance). Between the gray of the lower floors and the green of the dome the building is painted in unrelieved white. Columns and ornamentations are of iron.

### A NOBLE DOME

The dome and rotunda are the Capitol's outstanding architectural features. The ceiling of the rotunda is a separate inner dome of brick, some 120 feet below the cupola of the outer dome, placed high enough to convey the effect of loftiness without making the observer on the floor below feel as if he were looking up a broad chimney. The great weight of the outer dome and colonnade is supported by the rotunda walls and foundations and by masonry arches turned over the halls and vestibules of the upper floors.

In architects' terminology the word "dome" is applied only to the cap or rounded upper portion, although in common usage it refers to the entire structure rising above the roof. The straight-sided cylindrical section that bears the weight of the hemispherical section is called the "drum."

Running around the drum of the Capitol is a colonnade or peristyle—an open gallery with 24 fluted Corinthian columns supporting a balustraded roof—above which rises a clerestory. Tall round-headed windows in the colonnade and clerestory, though primarily decorative, admit light to the space above the rotunda dome, from which small round windows transmit it to the interior of the building.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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Above the white drum the ribbed green dome hangs against the sky, almost intangible and yet firm in outline. It is built of copper-covered wooden sheathing, composed—according to the original specifications—of three thicknesses of 2-inch planking “securely spiked together.” The ribs also were to be made of three 2-inch planks set edgeways. They converge below an open “lantern” or cupola with 12 columns. The domed roof of the lantern, covered with gold leaf, supports the ultimate ornament of the Capitol, a ball, also covered with gold leaf. The ribs of the dome are studded with electric lights; at night these, with floodlights on the roof, bathe the dome in soft brilliance, and its fine clear lines are visible for a long distance in the flat Sacramento Valley.

### EXTERIOR DETAIL

A broad granite entablature between first and second floors supports flat square pilasters ending in Corinthian capitals just below the handsomely ornamented cornice that surrounds the building. Windows are set singly between the pilasters. First- and second-floor windows are round-headed; third-floor ones, rectangular—both surrounded with decorative moulding; the small fourth-floor windows are square and untrimmed. The parapet wall is unornamented, relieved by heavy square pilasters.

### PORTICOS, NORTH AND SOUTH FACADES

Dominating motifs of the south and north building sides are identical projecting porticos, their cornices supported by five fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. Each has a balustraded balcony, paved with black and white marble squares, opening from the second story. Three deeply coffered panels ornament the balcony ceilings. Above each of these porticos is a statuary group composed of two women seated on both sides of a shield surmounted by an eagle with wide-stretched wings. The design, called *Union* by Pietro Mezzara, the sculptor, was completed shortly after the Civil War.

### PORTICO AND PEDIMENT, WEST FACADE

The principal accent of the west facade is a large handsome portico supported by seven granite archways. It rises the full height of the building, surmounted by a pediment above the cornice. Its eight fluted columns, capped with Corinthian capitals, are arranged with the center four widely spaced, flanked by closely spaced pairs.

The second-floor gallery of the portico is paved with black and white marble squares, and its ceiling has five deeply coffered panels. Sheltered by the portico are a pair of tall carved doors opening from the second floor, flanked on each side by windows of the second and third floors. This section is richly decorated with pilasters, cornices, and garlands. Below the pediment over the double doors is a golden seal, a variation of the State Seal, depicting Minerva standing with her lance and two bears at her feet.

The triangular pediment, ornamented with the same rich detail of the cornice, contains five allegorical figures. Models of these, as of all the exterior sculpture, were done in clay by Pietro Mezzara and cast in ground stone. The central standing figure, helmeted and holding a lance, is Minerva. On her right sit Education with a tablet



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## THE EXTERIOR

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and a globe and Industry leaning on an anchor and a plough. Seated at her left are Justice holding a tablet and Mining leaning on a pick and hammer. When designed, these figures were considered the height of artistry. Cummings, although he quarreled frequently with Mezzara, said of *Minerva*: "It is one of the finest pieces of statuary extant and our chances of getting a better, or even one as good would be small."

The two groups of statuary on the parapet above the pediment were each named *America* by Mezzara. On the south side a woman mounted on a rearing horse is fending off an attacking bull; on the north, a man similarly mounted contends with a chunky bear. Ten other statues and eight "richly ornamented vases," with the balustrade on which they stood, were removed in the remodeling of 1906-08.

### ENTRANCES

The Capitol has five entrances: one each on the west, north, and south under the portico archways and two on the east in each of the end wings. The main entrance, under the west portico, was remodeled in 1906-08; its three sets of double doors with glass panels are surmounted by deep-paneled glass insets in archways over the doors. The other entrances have carved walnut and glass doors almost 20 feet high set in deep reveals that indicate the thickness of the outer walls (approximately four feet). On each outer door panel is a carved bear's-head (a motif recurring frequently in the building). The rounded doorheads are surmounted by archways on their outer sides, by cornices on the inner.





THE STATUE OF THE  
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LORDS OF THE CHURCH

PRESENTED BY D. O. MILLS

1883



## THE INTERIOR

### FOYER

Foyer walls, of pinkish Utah sandstone with white marble bases, are inset with panels of beautifully veined Inyo County onyx framed in California marble. The foyer was much wider before remodeling: beautiful wooden staircases with carved rosewood banisters swept up from each side of the archway to landings, turned, and continued to the second floor; at the bases of the newel posts were carved lion's-foot ornaments. The remodeling was carried out along simple Tuscan lines. The vaulted ceiling is finished in creamy plaster lined-in white to simulate masonry joints. Three gold-tinted shallow glass bowls with bronze mountings, suspended from the ceiling, light the room. Squares of marble, black and white alternating, pave the floor. Pilasters and door pediments in the south and north walls add to the foyer's beauty and dignity.

The great archway between the foyer and the rotunda is one of four dividing the walls of the rotunda into quarters. About four feet wide, these archways indicate the thickness of the rotunda walls. A bronze plaque on the south side of the main arch bears Lincoln's Gettysburg address; one on the north side, General John A. Logan's order of the day of May 5, 1868: "The 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. \* \* \* It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year while a survivor of the war remains to honor his departed comrades."

### ROTUNDA

The rotunda, the most striking architectural feature of the interior, is 53.5 feet in diameter; the skylight in its domed ceiling is 125 feet above the floor. The thick walls are of brick set in extremely hard mortar. In each of the four wall sections are three panels. These 12 panels, with the panels above the four rotunda archways, form 16 sections which continue upward as decorative units and terminate at the skylight, also divided into 16 segments. Four groups of mural paintings decorate the walls. These were commissioned by the Legislature in 1913. The artist, Arthur Mathews (1860-), has portrayed some of the events and phases of California history. Mathews belonged to a group of artists who painted the brilliant California landscape in subdued tones, and these murals seem rather dark, though they are brightened by patches of red. Beside each of the four 3-panel groups a printed card tells a story of the murals.

The first mural group (southeast sector) portrays the discovery of California. Indians standing on an ocean shore are alarmed at the sight of two little high-decked vessels in which Sir Francis Drake and his men approach. The central panel is idealistic, showing the bearing of life and spiritual hope to the Indians. In the third panel a handful of Spanish pioneers—the Anza expedition, here led by Moraga—stands on the shore of the Golden Gate.





*First-floor rotunda*

The second group (southwest sector) covers the Spanish-Mexican period. In the first panel cattle graze over a rolling, tree-dotted landscape of pleasant hacienda days. The central panel shows a mission (a composite of some of the better-known missions) where Indians are working under the supervision of the padres. In the third panel the people of Monterey, clustered by the Customs House, await the arrival of Commodore Sloat.

The third group (northwest sector) portrays the development of California. The first panel shows the discovery of gold at Coloma. The second panel has an idealistic treatment of a band of emigrants carrying the Bear Flag and the Stars and Stripes; a blanketed Indian behind a rock watches them pass. The third panel, also idealistic, has a river steamer in the foreground; a green dome—possibly that of the Capitol—emerges from a cloud of smoke; in the background stands a group of tall modern buildings.

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## THE INTERIOR

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The fourth group (northeast sector), completely idealistic, might almost be conceived as a version of a traditional "happy ending." The first panel shows girls dancing amid sprays of blossoming boughs. The central and third panels are continuous in theme. In the foreground a youth is sculpturing a heroic figure; in the distance rises an ideal city of Greco-Roman architecture.

Before the murals were painted the rotunda was described in the *California Blue Book* as "richly and artistically decorated with colored stucco work, the wall panels are scroll and figure work, and to the height of the first story [it] is ornamented with scrolls, and representations of mining, of science, literature, art, music, seed time, and harvest."

Glass-topped tables below the murals contain rare early photographs, relics, early books, Indian handicrafts, and similar Californiana. The exhibits, supervised by the State Library and frequently changed, come from library collections and from a State-owned Indian museum.

The most noticeable decorative feature of the rotunda is a group of statuary in white Carrara marble occupying the center of the floor. Larkin Goldsmith Meade (1835-1910), an American sculptor noted for heroic statuary, carved this group in Florence, Italy, between 1868 and 1874. (In 1878 Meade assisted in the completion of the Washington Monument in the National capital. His work ornaments many public buildings in the United States.) Darius Ogden Mills, pioneer Sacramento banker, paid \$30,000 to the original owner of the group and presented it to the State. It was installed in its present location and ceremoniously accepted for California on December 22, 1883, by Governor George Stoneman. The figures depicted are Columbus and Isabella; the latter's fingers lift a fabulous pearl girdle in mute promise to finance the explorer's expedition even if she must risk her jewels to do so. The figures—which are scrubbed thoroughly with soap and water once a year—are mounted on a base of polished gray granite enclosed by a low unpolished granite railing.

A balcony encircles the rotunda at the second-floor level. From here to the ceiling the walls are ornamented by bands of decoration, panels, and other artistic devices that lead the eye to the gold and silver rays flaring out around the skylight, or "eye," of the dome. A vaulted ceiling finished in creamy plaster supports the balcony; light pours indirectly from a cove in the ceiling's inner edge. Rotunda walls on this level are painted tan. The unit of ornamentation above the second-floor archways is composed of a narrow band of silver molding, a dentil course touched with rose in the indentations, and a wide sculptured band. Above the third-floor level the rotunda is decorated by a ring of 16 deeply coffered window panels separated by pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Above the panels are a heavily ornamented band and a wide band supporting gilded braziers. Above this the walls are decorated by two tiers of panels. Between the tiers of panels the dome is pierced by a row of small round windows. Light from windows in the colonnade and clerestory filters through their frosted etched panes. The upper set of coffered panels curves into gold and silver rays; these rays and a star of electric lights surround the recessed skylight.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### CONTROLLER'S OFFICES

Through the east archway of the rotunda lies the entrance to the Controller's offices. Pillars flanking the doorway support a richly ornamented pediment. A row of lions' heads along the top of the pediment may have a judicial connotation, for this was the entrance to the Supreme Court when the Capitol was finished. The Supreme Court moved into the new Capitol on December 6, 1869. The first case tried before that august body was to decide the legality of a city ordinance forbidding women "to exhibit themselves in a drinking saloon after midnight." Unfortunately for the "pretty waiter girls" Nellie Smith and Anna Keating, who had been arrested for so exhibiting themselves, the court decided that barring them from a saloon after midnight did not interfere with their constitutional rights.

Windows are set at equal distances around the semicircular room; between them are paired pilasters whose Corinthian capitals are topped by small eagles. The room once bore a gold ceiling; this has been refinished more prosaically. A walnut gallery around the office has increased its space greatly. The Controller's department occupies the second, third, and fourth floors of this semicircular wing and north-wing offices.

Also in the north wing are the State Relief Administrator's headquarters and the offices of the State Treasurer. For many years the Treasurer's funds were kept in a safe that had come around the Horn. In the old days when "hard money" was used in California, six-horse teams hauled wagons heavily loaded with gold coin up the Eleventh Street driveway for delivery to the Treasurer.

### FIRST-FLOOR CORRIDORS

Flanking the rotunda are two corridors, leading to the south and north wings. Elevators and stairways lead from each corridor to the upper floors and the basement.

Tall black walnut and glass office doors with small semilunar transoms occupy recessed doorways. (All principal offices are marked.) Beautiful panels of burlled walnut are set around the tan-painted reveals. Between the doors square pilasters, with simple ornamentation matching that of the door cornices, support the vaulting of the ceiling.

Floors are tiled in a conventionalized floral design executed in warm shades of tan and gray relieved with white and maroon; they are further decorated by four colored-tile pictures consisting of items from the State seal—Minerva, a bear, and the word "Eureka"—bordered by blue fleur-de-lis on tan tile. Two of these decorations are placed by the rotunda entrances; the other two, near the south and north entrances.

The portraits of former California governors decorating the halls used to hang in the Governor's offices, but after those rooms were remodeled the portraits were cleaned and moved here—a welcome improvement over blank wall spaces.

In addition to governors' portraits, five other pictures hang on the walls of the north corridor, among them the portrait of a stocky, blond little pioneer who settled here in 1839—John August Sutter. He appears in the uniform of a major general. The portrait (1855) is by William S. Jewett (1812-1873), San Francisco artist of 1849. Sutter cannily acquired a great rancho of 11 square leagues in the fertile Sacra-

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## THE INTERIOR

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mento Valley on which he founded his feudal estate of New Helvetia. Here he built Sutter's Fort (which developed into a meeting place for American settlers), farmed with Hawaiian and Indian workers, and started a group of industries. When gold was discovered at a sawmill he was building at Coloma in 1848 his dream of a feudal estate ended as settlers by the thousands swarmed over his lands. The city of Sacramento grew up around Sutter's *embarcadero* (landing place) on the Sacramento River.

The portrait of John Bidwell (1819-1900) was painted in his later years by A. M. Reading. Bidwell was a member of the first organized wagon train to start for California. He arrived here in 1841, was employed by Sutter for several years, and bought his first land near the Arroyo Chico in 1844. In 1848 Bidwell found gold on the Feather River in Butte County. He is reputed to have taken a fortune from the bar now named for him. In 1890 he was Prohibition Party candidate for Governor; two years later he was nominated for President on the same ticket.

A modern portrait of Charles M. Weber, who settled in the San Joaquin Valley in 1841, was painted by Oscar Galgiani. In 1847 Weber founded Tuleburg (now Stockton) on the San Joaquin River.

At the end of the hall hangs one of California's most noted historical paintings: *The Laying of the Last Spike*, commemorating that moment of May 10, 1869, when a golden spike completed the final link between the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. (A diagram below the picture identifies the figures.) Its well-known artist, Thomas Hill (1829-1907), delighted his patrons by painting such scenic improbabilities as *Yosemite Valley*, *The Heart of the Sierra*, and *The Yellowstone Canyon*.

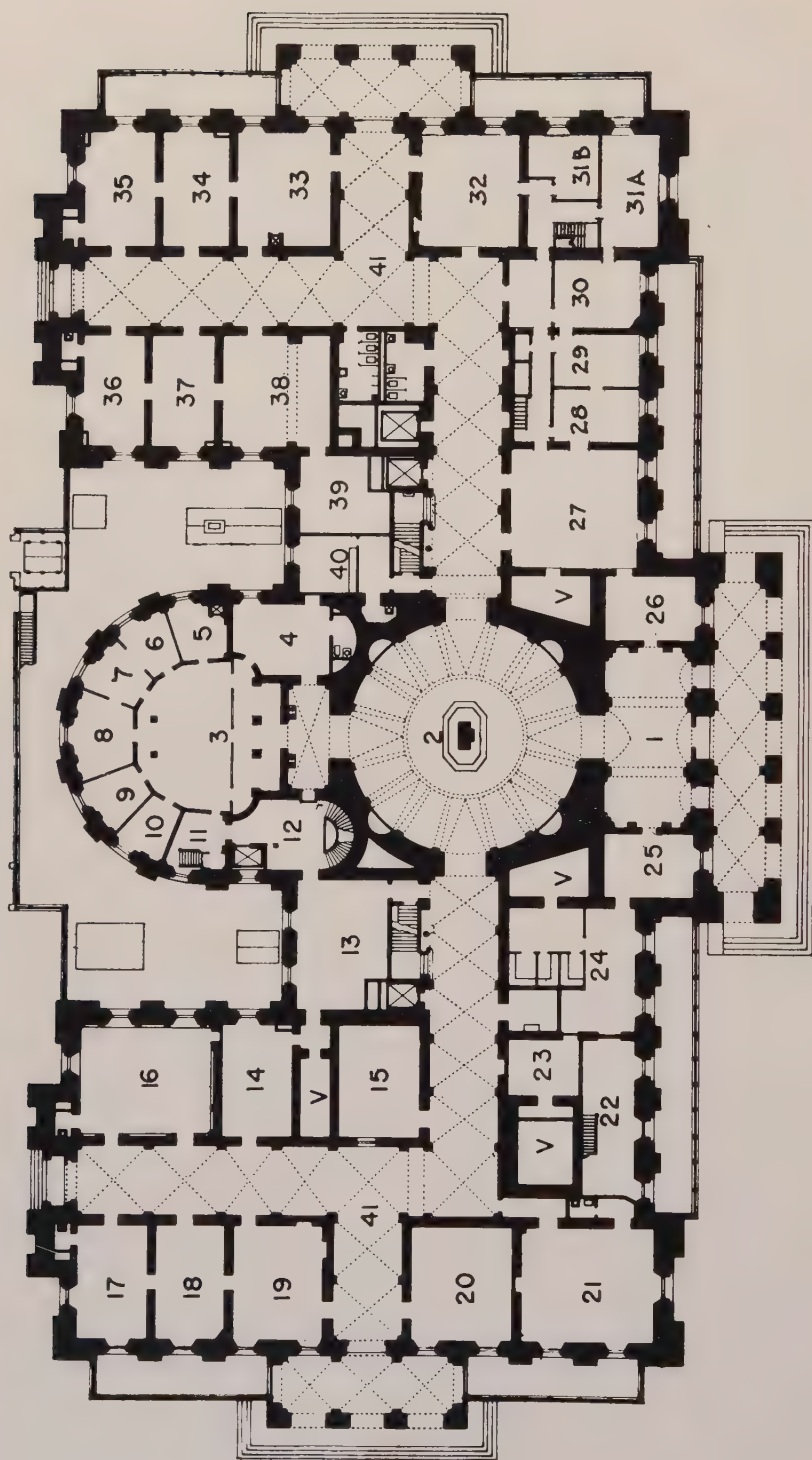
In 1875 Leland Stanford commissioned Hill to paint the present picture; the agreed price was \$25,000. After the picture was begun Stanford seemed to lose interest; certainly no money was forthcoming. Hill stubbornly finished his job. In the late nineties Paul Tietzen purchased the picture and in 1937 presented it to the State. Widely known, it has been reproduced in many articles, books, and textbooks.

Popular with many because of its sentiment is *Mother*, by E. M. Muse. In the depths of a snowy forest lies the body of a doe; beside her, the pathetic figure of her fawn. The painting is "Dedicated to the Spirit of Beauty and Innocence and offered as an admonition to those who go forth with guns."

## THE GOVERNOR'S SUITE

The Governor's Suite comprises all the offices along the front side of the south corridor. Since 1869 each Governor of the State has performed his duties here. The suite was remodeled in 1939 with funds appropriated by the Legislature during Governor James Rolph's administration, when gubernatorial duties had increased to such an extent that the office space then provided was insufficient. The two rooms reserved for the Governor's private offices retain their high ceilings, but to the rest of the suite was added a mezzanine floor housing a number of low-ceilinged small offices. The color scheme throughout is California's blue and gold. Blue carpets, golden-cream walls, a touch of gilt in the small moldings, simple gilded iron rails on the two stair-





*First-floor plan*

1—Vestibule; 2—Rotunda; 3-14—State Controller; 15—Post Office; 16-20—State Controller; 21-25—State Treasurer;  
26-32—The Governor; 33-40—Secretary of State; 41—Corridors

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## THE INTERIOR

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cases, indirect lighting, air-conditioning—these form a simple modern background for the functioning of the executive department of the State.

A low door over which "The Governor" is lettered in gold leads to a low-ceilinged reception room 28 by 28 feet. Paintings by local artists hang on the walls.

The only change made in the Governor's office during the 1939 remodeling was the installation of sound-deadening material on the ceiling. Gold-fringed blue velvet draperies hang at the windows. The floor is carpeted in blue. Some chairs are upholstered in dull dark-blue cloth, others in gold and blue leather. An unusual desk was specially designed to serve also as conference table. Portraits of Peter H. Burnett, California's first Governor, and of Hiram Johnson, its twenty-third, hang here. A small room at the north end of the suite is a private office for the Governor. (These offices may be visited when not in immediate use.)

During remodeling a short section of curved molding was discovered behind a cornice in the suite. On it was written in pencil:

"Joseph Ough, Cleveland, Ohio

C. H. Lincoln, Omaha, Nebraska

September 20, 1869

Who will live to take this out is more than we know."

For 70 years this reminder of the past had lain, gathering dust.

### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The rest of the south wing is occupied by the offices of the Secretary of State and his staff. In the Secretary's office is the Great Seal of the State, made in San Francisco in 1849. The die is mounted in a cast-iron press with gracefully curved legs. The figure of a man, supported by outstretched arms, kneels on a table, with his chin apparently resting on a pillar, in which the dies are mounted. Above his head is a long bar with large knobs at each end. When this bar is pulled round it turns a screw running through the top of the figure's head with sufficient force to emboss the State seal on heavy paper; the process is somewhat gruesome to the imaginative. An electric seal is used on thinner paper.

The design for the seal was drawn by Major R. S. Garnett at the Constitutional Convention at Monterey in 1849. Because of hostility between the incoming civilians and the military authorities the seal was attributed for a time to Caleb Lyon, a convention clerk. The design was described in the *Convention Journal* thus: "Around the bend of the ring are represented thirty-one stars, being the number of States of which the Union will consist upon the admission of California. The foreground figure represents the Goddess Minerva, having sprung full grown from the brain of Jupiter; she is introduced as a type of the political birth of the State of California, without having gone through the probation of a Territory. At her feet crouches a grizzly bear, feeding upon the clusters from a grapevine, emblematic of the peculiar characteristics of the country. A miner is engaged with his rocker and a bowl at his side, illustrating the golden wealth of the Sacramento, upon whose waters are seen shipping, typical of commercial greatness; and the snow-clad peaks of the Sierra Nevada make up the

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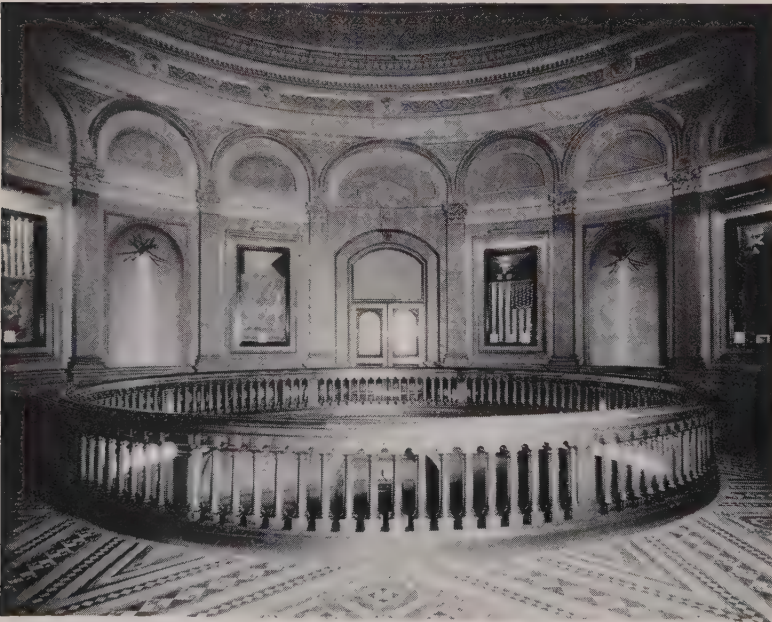
## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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background, while above is the Greek motto 'Eureka' (I have found it), applying either to the principle involved in the admission of the State, or the success of the miner at work."

The design described did not please everyone, and changes were suggested. The bear had been included, it is said, because of the Bear Flag Revolt, which occurred at Sonoma. General Mariano Vallejo, guardian of the northern frontier, who had been taken prisoner in Sonoma and imprisoned at Sutter's Fort for a time, suggested an amendment which was not adopted—that the bear on the seal be stricken out or that it be pictured "as made fast by a lasso in the hands of a vaquero." For engraving a die and fashioning it into a press the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated. The seal was engraved by Albrecht Kuner, a native of Bavaria. In 1858 the seal was damaged and a new one ordered by the Legislature.

Archives of the Secretary of State are stored in basement vaults. Here are all governmental records of the State of California, many handwritten and bound in heavy calfskin volumes. Perhaps the most interesting document here is the Constitution of the State of California, written and signed at the convention at Monterey in 1849. Three copies are bound in one set of covers. Two, one in English and one in Spanish, are written on note paper; each is signed by all the members of the convention. The third is written on 10 sheets of what appears to be pigskin; each of its pages, 12 inches by 15½ inches, inscribed on both sides in a formal script, was bound round with narrow red taffeta ribbon sewn on with tiny handset stitches. The last page contains signatures of the delegates, many with a fanciful rubric or flourish. The writing of the last few pages is somewhat ragged (this may be one of the copies that Lieutenant Henry W. Halleck sat up all night to complete).



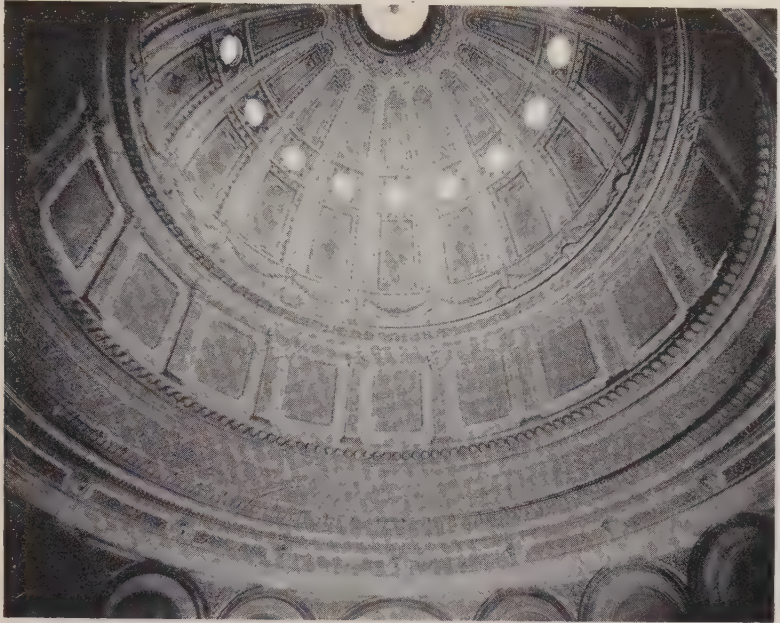
*Second-floor  
rotunda*



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## THE INTERIOR

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Section of the  
inner dome

Two other important volumes in the vaults contain certified copies made in 1869 of the original *diseños* (maps and accompanying property descriptions) found in the *Espedientes*, the records of land grants in the Spanish archives. The originals, upon which rest the validity of all land titles in the State, now repose in vaults in Washington, D. C.

### ROTUNDA BALCONY

The second-floor level of the rotunda, circled by a balcony with a walnut balustrade, is brilliant with color and ornamentation. National and regimental colors borne by California regiments in the three major wars in which the United States has been engaged since California became a State are displayed in 12 glassed recesses between the archways. The central recesses are sufficiently deep to hold a statue: this was no doubt the original intention.

Standards borne in the World War are displayed in the six cases on the south side of the rotunda; on the north side are flags of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. Printed cards in each case describe the units that carried the flags and the battles in which they engaged. The worn silks of the old flags have been stitched to backings to keep them from fraying and falling.

While slavery was not an issue in California, people of the State did have pronounced opinions, and when war was declared between North and South the balance of opinion in the State was pro-Union. Most of the men who enlisted in the Army then were detailed for service in the West, but a few men wanted to go East. On



*State Capitol and Park in the early 90's*

*Old State Agricultural Pavilion and State Printing Office in the background*

December 11, 1862, a group of young men known as the California Hundred sailed for Boston to join the Second Massachusetts Cavalry; that State was paying bounties for soldiers, and the volunteers used that bounty to pay their transportation and expenses. The following year saw the departure of the California Battalion. Other California companies served on this coast, and some joined the California Column that marched to New Mexico and Texas to fight both Confederate forces and Indians. In the Spanish-American War in 1898 California regiments went to the Philippines.

World War flags are mainly from the Sunshine (Fortieth) and the Rainbow (Ninety-first) Divisions, the major units with which most of California's 127,422 soldiers marched. They fought on the Marne, the Aisne, at Vesle, Toul, St. Mihiel, and in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

The section of the rotunda above the flag cases is richly ornamented. Pilasters between the cases support arched moldings, above which is a frieze punctuated with 16 bears' heads. The key of the arch over each of the four archways is decorated with a head of Minerva; framed in the molding over the archways are reproductions of the State Seal. Gold leaf was used lavishly in these decorations.

East of the rotunda is the entrance to the second-floor offices of the Controller's department. This room and the one above it on the third floor were the home of the State Library in 1869, a library started when California was a very young State, with a gift of 100 volumes from Colonel John C. Frémont. Frémont was one of the first two Senators chosen by the Legislature. In its initial decade the library grew tremendously, but here for the first time it was housed in fireproof quarters. A gallery surrounding the room is supported by a row of fluted columns with modified Corinthian capitals, each ornamented by a small eagle. The floor is elaborately patterned parquet.

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## THE INTERIOR

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West of the rotunda a hall somewhat cluttered with telephone booths leads to the tall, richly carved doors that open onto the balcony of the front portico.

### SECOND-FLOOR CORRIDORS

The south and north corridors on the second floor have 18-foot vaulted ceilings; walls are divided into panels by pilasters with simple columns, all painted in shades of tan. Flooring of mosaic tile has black borders and sprays of poppies for ornamentation. Beautiful ceiling lights of colored glass, representations of the State Seal, are placed at the ends of the north and south halls.

### SECOND-FLOOR OFFICES

Offices along the front of the south hall are occupied by the Bureau of Buildings and Grounds, the Supervisor of Documents, the Bureau of Printing, and the Lieutenant Governor. In addition to a vast amount of legislative and other State printing, the Bureau of Printing publishes more than 1,500,000 textbooks annually to be distributed free through the Department of Education to 750,000 grade-school children. California is the only State in the Union with such a policy.

Legislative Counsel offices and pressrooms occupy the front of the north hall. Newspaper representatives occupy pressrooms the year around, but during legislative sessions additional men are sent to take care of the increased volume of news.

### THE LEGISLATURE

The State Legislature of California holds its regular biennial sessions in odd-numbered years, convening at the State Capitol on the first Monday after January 1st. Regular sessions are 60 days in length, served in two 30-day periods with an intervening period of 30 days. The Governor can call the Legislature in extraordinary session whenever he considers it necessary.

Eighty Assemblymen are elected every two years to serve a term of two years. Half of the 40 Senators are elected every two years to serve four-year terms. The State is divided into 80 Assembly districts and 40 Senatorial districts; one member of the Legislature is elected from each district. A member of the Legislature must be an American citizen and must have lived for three years in the State and for one year in the district from which he is elected.

### SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Chamber (*admission on official business only; entrance to visitors' gallery on third floor*), at the end of the south wing, has tall richly paneled and carved outer doors; inner doors and a screen of padded red leather muffle sound from the halls. Just inside the chamber is a lobby whose ceiling is formed by the floor of the third-floor visitors' gallery. On a low marble base between lobby and Senate Chamber proper stand the 12 pillars supporting the front edge of the gallery overhead. Above a wide buff wainscoting lobby walls are paneled and tinted pink and gray; the ceiling is





Second-floor plan

1—Rotunda; 2—Corridors; 3—Senate Chamber; 4—Assembly Chamber; 5—Senate Chamber; 6—Assembly Chamber; 7—Senate Chamber; 8—Assembly Chamber; 9—Senate Chamber; 10—Senate Chamber; 11—Senate Chamber; 12—Assembly Sergeant-at-Arms and Assembly Post Office; 13—Speaker of the Assembly; 14—Legislative Counsel; 15—Legislative Counsel; 16—Legislative Counsel; 17—Legislative Counsel; 18—Legislative Counsel; 19—Legislative Counsel; 20—Telephone Exchange; 21—Bureau of Buildings and Grounds, Chief; 22—Supervisor of Documents; 23—Supervisor of Documents; 24—Legislative Bill Room; 25—State Printer; 26—Lieutenant Governor; 27—President Pro Tem of Senate; 28—President Pro Tem of Senate; 29—Senate Committee Rooms; 30—Senate Sergeant-at-Arms; 31—Senate Post Office

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## THE INTERIOR

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ivory; squares of black and white marbled linoleum cover the floor. Three sets of swinging gates, each with its central panel bearing a deeply carved reproduction of the State Seal, admit members to the chamber proper. The office of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Senate post office and cloakroom adjoin the lobby.

The dignified and gracious Senate Chamber occupies a room 73 feet wide, 56 feet deep, and 36½ feet high. About a third of this space is taken up by the visitors' gallery and lobby. North and south walls have two tiers of windows separated by a molded band, and the upper windows cut the cornice. Pairs of square buff pilasters stand between the windows and divide the walls into sections. Their modified Corinthian capitals belong to the style known as Federal. Above an arrangement of acanthus leaves with gilded tips stand eagles with outspread wings. In the corners, where two pilasters meet, the eagle is placed in the angle. The pilasters support a wide cornice richly ornamented with silver and gilt egg-and-dart molding and a dentil band with rose-colored indentations.

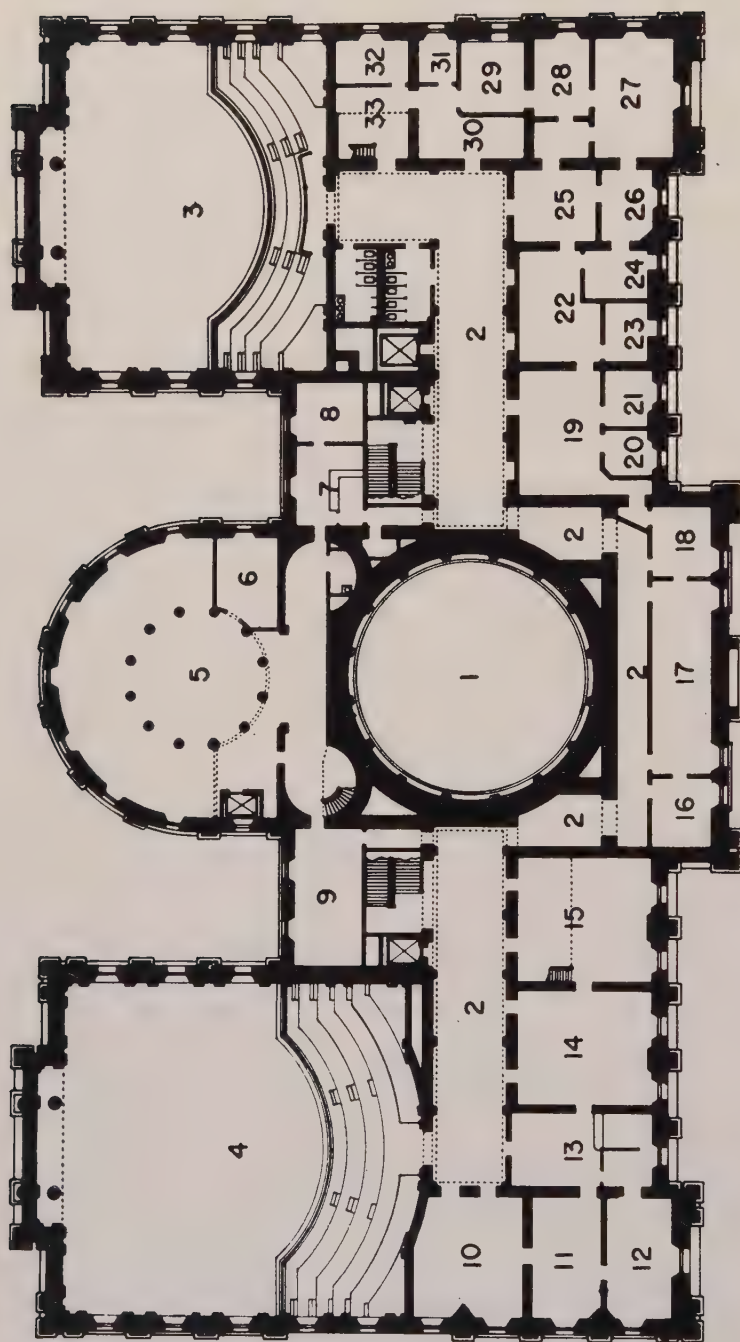
The ceiling is rich in effect. Between broad ridged and paneled beams supported by the entablatures over the windows is a series of square coffered panels bordered by electric lights. Ceiling and gallery walls are lined with tinted sound-deadening material.

Between the pilasters are gray-bordered pink panels. Draperies of the round-headed lower windows and spaces between the balcony pillars are of crimson velour, with a shaped fringed valance embroidered with California poppies. Net panels on the upper windows are embroidered with a formalized poppy border and a central golden bear. A red carpet patterned in black covers the floor.

The Lieutenant Governor, as President, presides over the Senate. His ruddy mahogany desk, lavishly carved, is set on a dais in a shallow alcove on the eastern wall. Below it stands a clerk's long mahogany desk. Two tall columns flanking the Speaker's desk and rising from the dais to the entablature are dusky red Sienna marble in effect; actually they are of plaster-coated iron, and a tribute to the workmen who so artfully painted them. They are topped with Composite capitals with four eagles, one on each face. Short columns under the balcony also resemble Sienna marble.

On a red velvet panel in the recess behind the President's desk hangs a 6-by-12 portrait of George Washington, its massive gold frame ornamented at the top by a gilded reproduction of the State Seal encircled by a laurel wreath. United States and State Flags hang on either side of the portrait. The artist, Jane Stuart (1812-88), daughter of the famous Colonial painter Gilbert Stuart, copied this painting from the portrait of Washington by her father that hangs in Faneuil Hall, Boston. She is credited with having made more than 124 of these copies.

The painting, presented to the Senate at Benicia in 1854 by T. O. Larkin and others, has had an adventurous history. When the Legislature moved to Sacramento it brought the portrait. On July 14th of that year the devastating fire that wiped out most of Sacramento's business district attacked the State House. Fighting the fire was a community job. According to the *California Blue Book*, Governor John Bigler rushed to the State House and "asked those present to assist him in saving the furniture. To this many objected, on the ground that private parties, who could not suffer the loss as well as the county, needed their services. A full-length portrait of Washington was



*Third-floor plan*

1—Rotunda; 2—Corridors; 3—Senate Chamber Gallery; 4—Assembly Chamber Gallery; 5-8—State Controller; 9-33—Department of Finance



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## THE INTERIOR

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standing against the southern wall, and pointing to it, the Governor said: 'See, there is a portrait of the father of your country; will you permit it to be destroyed?' When a general rush was made for the portrait and it was saved."

Lettered in gold on a red panel high in the alcove above the rostrum are the Latin words, "*Senatoris est Libertatem tueri*"—an injunction to the members that "A Senator's duty is to guard the liberty of the commonwealth."

Senators' black walnut desks are decorated with carving; each has a small bear's-head on the front. The swivel chairs upholstered in black leather have been in use for more than 70 years. A loud-speaker system with portable floor microphones permits voices to be heard clearly. The chamber is air-conditioned.

In front of the marble and pillared division between chamber and lobby stands a row of red velvet armchairs for visitors (*admission by card signed by President of Senate*).

On the evening of December 6, 1869, upon the occasion of the grand opening Capitol Ball, the more sedate element of the visitors danced the quadrille here to the music of Saunders' band from San Francisco. Mr. Saunders himself called the figures. Inaugural balls were given in the Capitol for many years, but the Sacramento *Union* stated that the ball given January 9, 1891, in honor of Governor Markham and Lieutenant Governor Reddick, "was beyond doubt the most brilliant social event ever witnessed in Sacramento, and many assert that it far outshone anything of the kind even in San Francisco, which can legitimately boast of being the social and financial center of the coast \* \* \* in point of elegance, rich costumery and charming accessories none could compare with the Markham inaugural ball." The menu was typical of the nineties: chicken, Eastern oysters, roast turkey, ham, smoked tongue, wine jelly, chicken and crab salads, sauterne, claret, champagne, and an astonishing array of desserts were served. "Each guest was presented with an elegant souvenir"—an "illuminated cardboard 7 x 12 inches in size, and of neat design." A portrait of Governor Markham was encircled by a wreath of orange boughs, the folds of a banner held in the talons of an eagle draped that of the Lieutenant Governor, and pictures of the Capitol and Yosemite Valley added interest for the recipient.

For a number of years the Supreme Court held sessions in the Senate Chamber in May and December.

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

The Assembly Chamber (*admission on official business only; entrance to visitors' gallery on third floor*), at the end of the south wing, has tall paneled and handsomely carved outer doors; inner doors and a screen of padded green leather serve to exclude sound while the Assembly is in session.

The high-ceilinged room with two tiers of windows on the north and south walls, with the speaker's rostrum and visitors' gallery on the other two facing walls, has an air of dignity appropriate to a legislative chamber. The room, 75 by 73 feet and 36½ feet high, is two stories in height. More than a third of the space is taken up by the visitors' gallery.

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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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The space beneath the gallery, set off from the chamber proper by a low curved marble wall and a row of pillars supporting the gallery's front edge, constitutes a lobby for members. Black and white squares of marbled linoleum cover the floor; walls are tinted in two shades of light green, and the ceiling is ivory. Two north windows open onto the balcony of the north portico of the building. The office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Assembly post office, and a cloakroom adjoin. Three sets of low gates with carved representations of the State Seal admit members to the chamber proper.

The Speaker's rostrum occupies a broad dais in a shallow alcove on the windowless east wall. The Speaker, chosen by the members from their own number, sits behind a carved desk of mahogany; below him is the long desk where the Assembly Clerk and other officials sit. Noticeable are tall columns on either side of the rostrum, deceptively painted to resemble dusky red Sienna marble. The pillars under the balcony across the chamber are similarly painted but in a lighter tone.

Mounted on a green velvet panel at the back of the alcove, flanked by a large United States and a State Flag, is a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, attributed to William Cogswell (1819-1903). Purchased by the Legislature in 1909 from the painter's heirs, this is a copy of the Cogswell portrait of Lincoln that has hung in the White House for many years. Cogswell also painted five of the Governors' portraits in the first-floor corridors.

A broad dark-green panel has been painted in the upper section of the alcove, above Lincoln's portrait; here, lettered in gold, are the Latin words "*Legislatorum est justas leges condere*," admonishing the Assemblymen that the duty of legislators is to make just laws.

North and south walls have two tiers of windows above a marble wainscoting; the lower tier has arched heads. All four walls are divided into panels by square pilasters placed in pairs. Capitals are ornamented with gilded eagles, typical of the Federal style of architecture. Large handsome entablatures above the windows support ridged and paneled ceiling beams. The space between the beams is subdivided into a row of deeply coffered panels. The cornice around the room is richly decorated with a silver and gold egg-and-dart molding and a toothed band with rose indentations. Ceiling and walls are lined with tinted sound-deadening material. The chamber is indirectly lighted by 12 modernistic fixtures suspended from the ceiling by brass rods.

Green velour curtains hang at the lower tier of windows and between balcony columns. They have a shaped fringed valance embroidered with a spray of California poppies. Net panels at the upper tier of windows are embroidered with poppies and a golden bear. The American theme in this room is further carried out in the bears' heads on the front of the members' desks. These desks, with inset tops of black leather, have been in use since 1869. The members sit in swivel armchairs upholstered in black leather. The floor is carpeted in dark green.

The Assembly automatic roll-call records the votes of 80 members in a few seconds. Huge duplicate panels containing the names of all members are mounted on the east wall, one on each side of the rostrum. By pressing a button at his desk an Assemblyman causes a green light for "yes" or a red light for "no" to appear opposite his name. Results are totaled instantly. A loud-speaker system with portable micro-

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## THE INTERIOR

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phones enables members to be heard clearly throughout the chamber. Microphones also are installed on the Speaker's and clerk's desks.

Green velvet armchairs for visitors (*admission by card signed by Speaker*) are placed in front of the marble wall that divides the lobby from the chamber proper.

The Assembly of the State of California has held its sessions in this chamber since it met here on noon of December 6, 1869, with applause from visitors in the gallery. On the evening of December 15th the *Daily Union* reported that "the magnificent chambers had a most elegant appearance, lit up as they were by hundreds of gas burners, and further illuminated by the beauty and the fine toilets of the fair ladies present." From the Speaker's rostrum the Sacramento band played "for those delighting more especially in the various fancy dances of the day."

### THIRD FLOOR

Until the remodeling of 1906-08 the third floor was the top floor of the Capitol. This floor has no archways through the thick rotunda walls, and the corridor passes around its west side. Corridor walls and ceilings are painted several shades of tan; floors are of gray terazzo with black borders. Doors with semilunar transoms are set in recessed doorways.

Offices along the west front of the building, occupied by the Department of Finance, have been remodeled, redecorated, and air-conditioned. Since 1923 this department has prepared the biennial budget on which the State operates.

At the extreme end of the south corridor is the entrance to the visitors' gallery of the Senate Chamber, seating approximately 120 persons. At the extreme end of the north corridor is the entrance to the visitors' gallery of the Assembly Chamber, seating approximately 140.

### FOURTH FLOOR

In 1906-08 the building roof was raised and the space that had been an attic was converted into more than 80 offices. Permanent legislative committees hold meetings here. Corridors are painted in shades of tan, with lincrusta wainscoting; tan battle-ship linoleum covers the floors; doors have frosted glass panels.

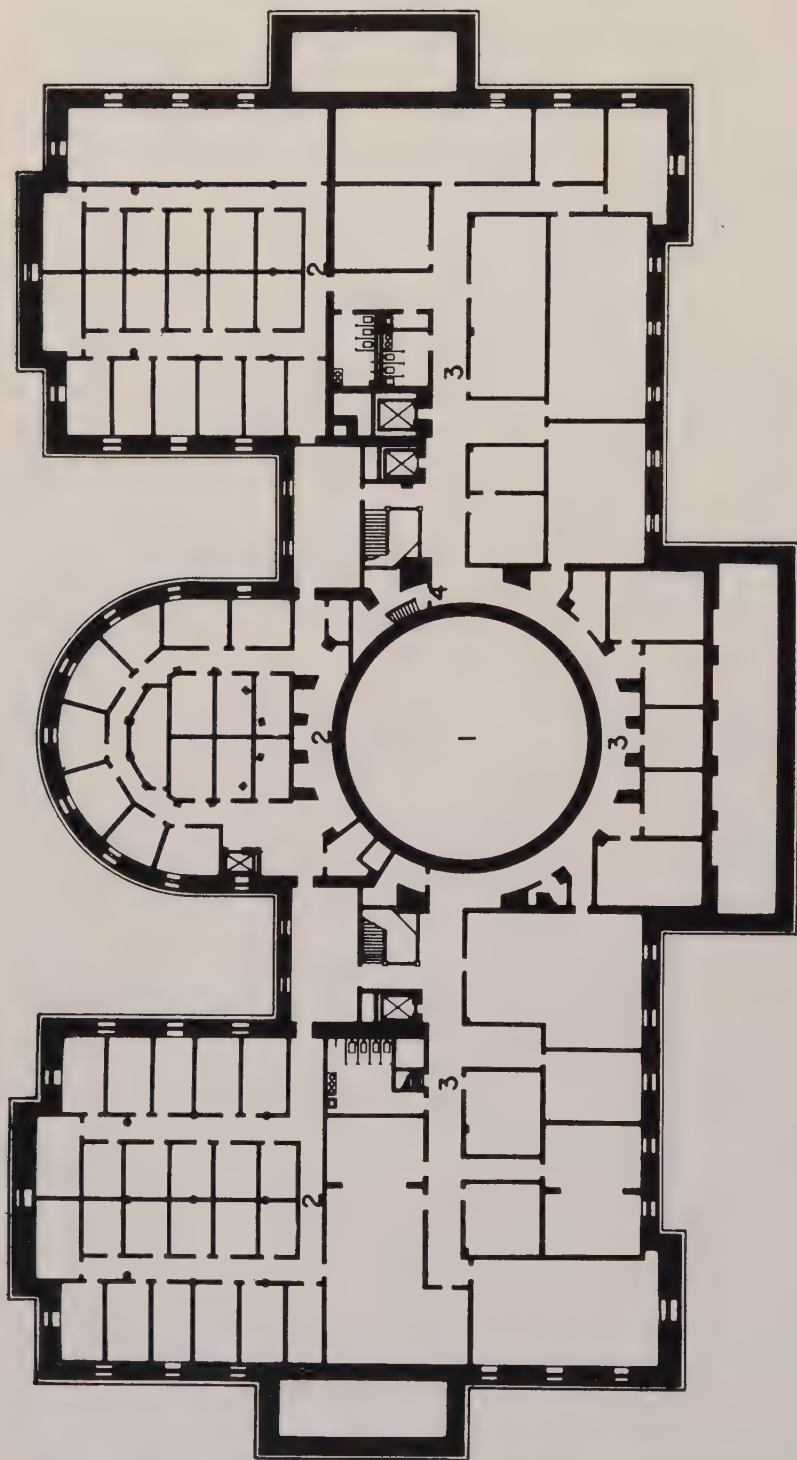
A corridor connecting the south and north wings of the building curves round between the rotunda walls and the supporting piers of the colonnade. From the south side of the rotunda a door opens onto a narrow steel staircase leading to the open gallery surrounding the dome.

### THE DOME

*(Dome open by special permission only)*

A stairway and corridor occupy the space between the rough brick of the rotunda wall and an encircling wall that supports the weight of the colonnade. The irregularly laid brick wall differs greatly from those put up by modern streamlined construction methods, recalling the days when construction was done entirely by hand without the benefit of power tools. The rotunda dome was finished in 1868, and three years elapsed before the outer dome enclosed it.





*Fourth-floor plan*

*1—Rotunda; 2—Private Corridors; 3—Public Stairways; 4—Stairway to Dome; Unnumbered Rooms—Senate and Assembly Committee Rooms and Offices*

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## THE INTERIOR

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The view from the height of the colonnade gallery, frequently obscured by haze in summer, is excellent on clear winter days. Immediately below is Capitol Park, with the city visible beyond. The streets around the Capitol are planted with trees, and these, together with the greenery of yards and gardens, almost completely hide the houses.

East, west, and south lie mountains. Along the eastern horizon, vanishing into the north and south, is the Sierra Nevada, a blue range lifting frosted white peaks against the sky. To the west the Coast Range is marked with the deep notch of Putah Creek Canyon. Toward the south Mount Diablo seems to bulge from the flat plain.



*An inhabitant of  
Capitol Park*





## CAPITOL PARK

One of the most attractive State-maintained parks in any downtown area in the Nation is Capitol Park, whose 34 acres occupy a ten-block site bounded by Tenth and Fifteenth, L and N Streets. The four blocks at its western end, in which the Capitol is centered, are planted in geometrical lines that conform with the building's classical lines. The original planting of the rest of the park—the area between Twelfth and Fifteenth Streets—consisted of a double row of elm trees marking the limits of a former race track; subsequent plantings were designed for individual beauty rather than in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Today's park, cut by many convenient walks, is handsomely planted with more than 450 varieties of trees and shrubs and sodded with thick green lawns. The luxuriance of its greenery is attributable to the proximity of the American and Sacramento Rivers, sources of a never-failing water supply.

All year long a steady stream of interested admirers flows along the walks of Capitol Park, which offers something fresh in beauty each month. Flowers are most abundant in spring; then the Japanese quince, cherry, and double-flowering peach trees are hauntingly lovely, and the smooth green lawns are dappled with English daisies. Throughout the summer mothers bring their children to play on the shaded grass, where young people sprawl comfortably during the noon hour, eating their lunches and reading. Oldsters spend contented afternoons on benches in fern-grown nooks. In fall the trees are handsome in shades of orange and brown. Although an occasional severe frost cuts back tender growth, the abundance of subtropical plants grown without protection attests to generally mild winters. On sunny winter days children pursue squirrels and birds with morsels of food, and benches along the walks have their daily quotas.

Considerable foresight on the part of the citizens of the sixties brought about the creation of Capitol Park. Said Governor Leland Stanford, speaking of the Capitol and its grounds in his annual message of December 8, 1863: "An edifice should be constructed that will be satisfactory of the grandeur of the coming time \* \* \* surrounded by grounds \* \* \* with a beauty and luxuriousness that no other capitol in the country could boast." A few years later the *Sacramento Union* declared of the four-block site where the Capitol walls were rising: "This area which looked respectable as to size while vacant, or nearly so, will appear very small and disproportionate when the magnificent and imposing edifice is completed. The ground around the building is now of comparatively little value and may be secured at low figures. In a short time it must of necessity advance in price."

Nothing more was done until 1870, but in that year the commissioners used part of a \$250,000 appropriation to purchase the land between Fourteenth and Fifteenth and L and M (now Capitol) Streets, and here construction of a Governor's mansion was begun. In 1872 the Legislature authorized the purchase of additional land between Twelfth and Fifteenth and L and N Streets.

That year the Legislature also passed an enabling act which allowed \$100,000 for the purchase of the balance of the land now in the park. However, this property was assessed at almost half as much again, and the people of Sacramento came to the rescue,





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## CAPITOL PARK

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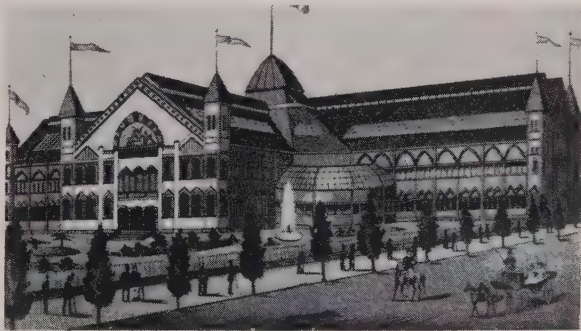


*State Printing Office at 15th and L Streets, 1872-1923*  
(from an early engraving)

was fenced. The grounds were leased, as were other city parks, so that a lessor would care for them. For many years trotting races were run beneath the elms that still outline the old track. Later this was used as a bridle path; still later it served as a shady walk between the Capitol and the Agricultural Pavilion. In the nineties fences were replaced by stone pillars and iron chains.

The gardener's cottage and adjacent buildings are now the only structures other than the Capitol in the park; but from 1872 until 1923 a two-story frame building stood near Fifteenth and L Streets. Intended to be the Governor's mansion, the building was never so used, but was finished in 1875 for the State Bureau of Printing, whose plant in it was described as "the acme of perfection in printing office equipment on the Pacific Coast." By 1917 the volume of business increased to such a degree that the Legislature appropriated funds for the construction of the present Printing Bureau quarters at Eleventh and O Streets. The new building was completed and the old one destroyed in 1923.

Across the park at Fifteenth and N Streets was constructed in 1884 the largest building then in California—the elaborately pinnaced Agricultural Pavilion of the California State Fair. The Agricultural Pavilion continued to house State Fair exhibits until 1905. In that year construction of the present State Fair buildings was begun on an 80-acre tract on Stockton Boulevard. The site of the pavilion is now occupied by native California shrubs.



*Agricultural Pavilion, 1884-1905*  
(from an early engraving)

raising sufficient funds to complete the purchase. One Samuel Poorman contracted to plow the land for \$50, but when cottonwood roots, log chains, stones, and firmly set posts just below the surface wrecked his plows, the board allowed him \$150 for the job.

In early days, when the Capitol was almost on the outskirts of town, deer were seen here. During later years wandering cattle caused so much trouble that the park





*Double white-flowering peach trees*

## THE PLANTINGS

The original site around the Capitol was graded in 1870 and enriched by loads of river silt. Eight hundred trees and flowering shrubs—200 different varieties from all parts of the world—were planted during the winter of 1870-71. This tremendous variety probably would not have been available had it not been for the groundwork of the State Agricultural Society, whose headquarters were in Sacramento. Founded in 1854, the society by 1859 was corresponding with agricultural and horticultural organizations in such distant parts of the world as the countries of Europe, China and Australasia, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and South America.

Every variety of plant in the park is labeled (few individual plants are unlabeled). In 1905 the identity of many plants had been lost, and Alice Eastwood, head of the Horticultural Department of the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco,

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## CAPITOL PARK

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was asked to identify them. Under her direction correct botanical and common names as well as the names of the countries of nativity were supplied for all plants in the park. This custom has been continued, and today more than 450 varieties of labeled plant life—their habitats ranging from sub-Arctic to subtropical—are represented.

The park is surrounded with a curb planting of *Washingtonia* palms averaging 45 feet in height. This tree, indigenous to the State, is found in the well-watered canyons of the Colorado Desert in southern California. Major plantings in front of the Capitol comprise hardy deodars from the mountains of India and Italian stone pines from the mountains of Italy, interspersed with such tender trees and shrubs as date palms from the Canary Islands, camellias from China and Japan, orange trees from Spain, and magnolias from the Southern States.

Along the sides of the Capitol are Douglas firs, Lawson spruce, incense cedars, Washington palms and redwoods from California, ginkgo trees from Japan, bunya bunnies from Australia, monkey-puzzle trees from western South America, cypresses from the Guadeloupe Islands, and Sakhalin spruces from Sakhalin Island off the coast of Russia.

Behind the Capitol grow conifers, magnolias, and English cherry, laurel, and hawthornes. A line of handsome arborvitae trees marks the division between the formal plantings of the plot around the Capitol and the more irregular plantings in the eastern section of the park, where groups have been arranged to present harmonious pictures the year around. The camellia, Sacramento's chosen flower, is abundantly represented, and from November to May the glossy green leaves of various types are studded with perfect waxy blossoms. Rose beds, plots of blooming irises, borders of flowering shrubs interspersed with annuals, and constantly changing beds of annuals add color and interest. On tall Seville and Washington navel orange trees the golden fruit often hangs until the fragrant blossoms come again.

Some of the plantings are unusually distinctive: noticeable is the line of 12 deodars paralleling Tenth Street, one of the finest groups of specimen trees of this variety in the State. They stand 75 feet tall, with a basal spread of 40 feet. Their branches, which droop in the tree's native habitat, here have been wired up to allow use of the shaded space below.

In Memorial Grove, a half-acre plot near Twelfth and L Streets, grow trees acquired as saplings from famous Southern battlefields. This gift (1897) of the ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic in California and Nevada honors Union veterans of the Civil War. Ferns and flowering shrubs are planted around the base of the trees. The grove boasts sugar maple (Ball's Bluff), pitch pine (Chickamauga), silver maple (Chattanooga), locust (Spottsylvania Courthouse), box elder (Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain), pencil cedar (Cold Harbor), scarlet maple (Chancellorsville and Franklin), sand blackjack oak (Kenesaw Mountain), American elm (Winchester, Wilderness, and Gettysburg), white oak (Vicksburg), winged elm (Malvern Hill), tulip tree (Five Forks), and black walnut (Seven Pines).

Around the gardener's cottage and nursery near the Thirteenth and L Streets entrance are beds of brilliant annuals. A tall Cedar of Lebanon, noteworthy for its perfect shape, grows near the cottage. The Capitol Avenue walk between Thirteenth

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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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and Fourteenth Streets is bordered by handsome dark-green Irish yews wired into formal pillars. (A particularly noteworthy specimen of this tree in its natural shape grows near the Twelfth and N Streets entrance.)

The block bordered by Fifteenth and N Streets, devoted to California plantings, includes Catalina cherry, Christmas berry, Brandegee palm, redbud, white oak, Lawson cyprus, buckthorn, wax myrtle, blackberry elder, laurel, manzanita, prickly pear, greasewood, saltbush, juniper, digger pine, Jeffrey pine, Coulter pine, Lick weeping willow, black cottonwood, plane tree, evergreen oak, California live oak, mesa oak, Oregon grape, catclaw, hollyleaf cherry, blue Nootka cyprus, white spruce, white fir, bigtree, incense cedar, nutmeg, Douglas fir, valley live oak, and conifers of many varieties.



*Rock garden in eastern section of park*



# III

## APPENDICES

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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### CHRONOLOGY

- 1542 Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sights coast of California.  
1770 Monterey founded by Gaspar de Portolá and Padre Junípero Serra.  
1821 Mexico revolts from Spain, and California becomes a Mexican province.  
1846 July 7. Commodore John D. Sloat, USN, raises Flag of United States at Monterey and proclaims annexation of California.  
1848 January. James Marshall discovers gold on American River at Coloma.  
1849 June 3. Governor (*de facto*) Riley issues proclamation calling for election of delegates to Constitutional Convention.  
1849 September. Constitutional Convention meets at Colton Hall in Monterey.  
1849 March 8. Construction completed on Colton Hall.  
1849 October 13. First Constitution of the State of California signed by 48 delegates at Monterey.  
1849 December 15. First State Legislature meets at San Jose, capital of State.  
1850 September 9. California admitted to Union.  
1851 January 6. Second State Legislature meets at San Jose.  
1851 February 14. Act naming Vallejo State capital passed by Legislature.  
1852 January 5. Legislature meets for third session at Vallejo.  
1852 January 12. Legislature adjourns at Vallejo to meet in "temporary capital," Sacramento, on January 16.  
1853 January 5. Legislature convenes at Vallejo.  
1853 February 4. Legislature adjourns at Vallejo, having named Benicia new—and fourth—capital of State.  
1853 February 11. Legislature convenes at Benicia.  
1853 February 25. Act of Legislature proclaims Sacramento capital of California.  
1853 March. Legislature convenes at Sacramento.  
1854 January 2. Legislature convenes at Benicia.  
1854 July 13. Courthouse used by State Legislature in Sacramento destroyed by fire.  
1855 January. Legislature meets in new Sacramento County Courthouse.  
1860 September 24. Ground broken for foundation of State Capitol.  
1861 May 15. Cornerstone of new Capitol laid.  
1862 January 22. Legislature flooded out of Sacramento; adjourns session to San Francisco.  
1869 December 6. New State Capitol officially occupied; Legislature holds session therein.

### GOVERNORS OF CALIFORNIA

*December 20, 1849–January 9, 1851*

PETER HARDEMAN BURNETT (1807–1895), Democrat. Born Nashville, Tennessee. In youth a storekeeper. Practiced law in Missouri; served three years as prosecutor at Liberty. Went to Oregon with his wife and six children in 1843. Led first party of gold-seekers to California in fall of 1848. Became attorney for John A. Sutter, Jr., in Sacramento, August 1, 1849. Elected Justice of Superior Court from Sacramento, Sonoma, and San Joaquin district; resigned in October to become a candidate for Governor. Elected first Governor of California November 13, 1848; inaugurated December 20, 1849; resigned January 9, 1851 (because of stress of business). With Joseph W. Winans and Samuel Brannan founded Pacific Bank in San Francisco, of which

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## APPENDICES

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he became president. Appointed to Supreme Court in 1857 by Governor J. N. Johnson, but at end of appointive term (October 1858) resumed business career. Retired about 1880. Died in San Francisco in 1895.

*January 9, 1851–January 8, 1852*

JOHN McDUGAL (1818–1866), Democrat. Born in Ross County, Ohio. Enlisted for service in Black Hawk Indian and Mexican Wars; later distinguished himself as captain of volunteers. Became Superintendent of Indiana State Prison in 1846. Came to California in 1849; settled in Sacramento; became a merchant after unsuccessful attempt at mining. Delegate to Constitutional Convention; elected Lieutenant Governor, 1849; became Governor January 9, 1851, when Burnett resigned. Died in 1866 in San Francisco.

*January 8, 1852–January 9, 1856*

JOHN BIGLER (1805–1871), Democrat. Born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Printer, editor, lawyer. Brought family overland by oxteam and covered wagon in 1849; Mrs. Bigler was first white woman to live in Sacramento. After beginning as a roustabout, Bigler was elected to first California Assembly, 1849; became Speaker; re-elected, 1851. Elected Governor by close margin; inaugurated January 8, 1852; re-elected, inaugurated January 5, 1854. U. S. Minister to Chile, 1857–61. Central Pacific Railroad Commissioner, 1867. Founded *State Capitol Reporter* and edited it until his death in 1871 in Sacramento.

*January 9, 1856–January 8, 1858*

JOHN NEELY JOHNSON (1825–1872), Know Nothing. Born in Gibson County, Indiana. Admitted to bar in Iowa before he was 21. Trekled to Sacramento in 1849; opened law office in tent; elected city attorney in 1850. In 1851, as colonel on staff of Governor John McDougal, took part in Mariposa Indian War, during which Yosemite Valley was discovered. Member of Legislature, 1853. Inaugurated Governor January 9, 1856. Resumed law practice when term ended. Lived in Nevada until 1870; appointed West Point Examiner by President Ulysses S. Grant. Died in Salt Lake City in 1872.

*January 8, 1858–January 9, 1860*

JOHN B. WELLER (1812–1875), Democrat. Born in Montgomery, Ohio. Abandoned law study for politics, elected to Congress from Hamilton County; served three terms, 1839–45. Rose from private to colonel in an Ohio regiment in Mexican War. Appointed chairman of Mexican Boundary Commission in 1849 by President James K. Polk. Elected U. S. Senator from California in 1852. Inaugurated Governor January 8, 1858. Minister to Mexico, 1860–61. Died from smallpox in New Orleans in 1875.

*January 9, 1860–January 14, 1860*

MILTON SLOCUM LATHAM (1827–1882), Democrat. Born in Columbus, Ohio. Taught school, studied law. Came to California early in 1850; became clerk of Recorder's Court, San Francisco, same year. Was district attorney in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. Elected to Congress 1852. Collector of Port, San Francisco, 1855–57. Inaugurated Governor January 9, 1860. Sponsored plan to divide California, with six counties as Southern California. Elected U. S. Senator to succeed David C. Broderick (killed in duel); resigned governorship January 14, 1860. His speech on an "independent California" in event of Union's dissolution attracted much attention. Became president of London and San Francisco Bank, 1865, and served until 1878. Later became president of Mining and Stock Exchange in New York. Died in New York in 1882.

*January 14, 1860–January 10, 1862*

JOHN G. DOWNEY (1826–1894), Democrat. Born in County Roscommon, Ireland. Came to California in 1849 with only \$10; settled in Los Angeles and made \$30,000 in three years. Elected Lieutenant Governor and succeeded Latham when latter became Senator; inaugurated January 14, 1860. As Governor helped keep California a Union State. Made fortune in real estate and bought 75,000-acre ranch near San Pedro. Died in Los Angeles in 1894.



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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*January 10, 1862–December 10, 1863*

LELAND STANFORD (1824–1893), Republican. Born in Albany County, New York; admitted to bar in Albany. Came to California in 1852 and joined five brothers in grocery business in Sacramento. Became one of "Big Four" who financed and constructed the Central Pacific, western extension of first transcontinental railroad; 10 days after nomination for governor was chosen president of line, which he headed until his death. After inauguration January 10, 1862, as first Republican Governor of California, approved legislation aiding Central Pacific. Organized Southern Pacific, holding company for Central and Southern Railroads and related properties, in 1885. Founded Leland Stanford Junior University in Palo Alto in 1885. Was U. S. Senator from 1885 until his death in Palo Alto in 1893.

*December 10, 1863–December 5, 1867*

FREDERICK F. LOW (1828–1894), Republican. Born in Frankfort, Maine. Came to California from Boston in 1849 before attaining his majority. After short experience as miner went into business in San Francisco. In 1855 became a banker at Marysville. Merged all inland steamship lines on San Francisco Bay and Sacramento River. In Congress, 1862–63; inaugurated Governor December 10, 1863. Minister to China, 1869–74. Died in San Francisco in 1894.

*December 5, 1867–December 8, 1871*

HENRY HUNTLY HAIGHT (1825–1878), Democrat. Born in Rochester, New York. Left law practice with father in St. Louis to join uncle in San Francisco, 1850. Engaged in law and politics until inaugurated Governor December 5, 1867. His administration saw completion of State Capitol and first transcontinental railway and establishment of University of California by legislative enactment. Died in 1878 in San Francisco.

*December 8, 1871–February 27, 1875*

NEWTON BOOTH (1825–1892), Republican. Born in Salem, Indiana. Though a lawyer, developed large grocery business in Sacramento soon after coming to California in 1850. Made reputation as orator; became contributor to Sacramento *Daily Union*. Served in State Senate in 1863; carried State back into Republican column against Haight in 1871 as independent Anti-Monopolist. Re-elected by aid of new Granger ("Dolly Varden") movement in 1873. Elected to U. S. Senate; resigned as Governor and served in Washington 1875–81. Died in 1892 in Sacramento.

*February 27, 1875–December 9, 1875*

ROMUALDO PACHECO (1831–1899), Republican. Born at Santa Barbara. In early life was a sailor. Member of Legislature in 1853 (and again in 1868); San Luis Obispo County Judge, 1855; State Senator, 1851 and 1861; State Treasurer, 1863–66; Lieutenant Governor, 1872–75; inaugurated Governor February 27, 1875. Under his administration Native Sons of the Golden West was organized. He brought together the old Spanish and new American elements. Elected to Congress 1876, but unseated by House as result of election contest; elected again and served, 1880 and 1882. Appointed Minister to Republics of Central America in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison. Died in Oakland in 1899.

*December 9, 1875–January 8, 1880*

WILLIAM IRWIN (1827–1886), Democrat. Born in Butler County, Ohio. Was school-teacher, lawyer, lumberman. Went to Oregon in 1852; established business in San Francisco in 1853; moved to Siskiyou County in 1856; bought and edited *Yreka Union*. Served two terms in Assembly beginning in 1861; was State Senator in 1874. Inaugurated Governor December 9, 1875. Crushed "Dolly Varden" movement in first campaign; was re-elected. Practiced law in San Francisco, where he died in 1886.

*January 8, 1880–January 10, 1883*

GEORGE CLEMENT PERKINS (1839–1923), Republican. Born in Kennebunkport, Maine. Stowed away at 12 and followed sea four years, coming to California in 1855. Was a miner; worked for George W. Dyer and Faulkner Brothers at Oroville, where he became a banker.

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## APPENDICES

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Established Bank of Butte County in Chico. Went to State Senate from Butte, Lassen, and Plumas Counties, 1869-74. Entered shipping business; formed Pacific Coast Steamship Co., merger of coast steamship lines. Was president of San Francisco Chamber of Commerce when elected Governor. Inaugurated January 8, 1880, first Governor under second State Constitution, with three-year term. Became U. S. Senator at Leland Stanford's death; served 22 years. Died in Oakland in 1923.

*January 10, 1883–January 8, 1887*

GEORGE STONEMAN (1822–1894), Democrat. Born at Busti, New York. Graduate of West Point; quartermaster with Mormon Battalion on General Philip Kearny's expedition to California; cavalry leader of distinction in Union Army; retired because of illness in 1871 and came to California. Was Railroad Commissioner six years, beginning 1879. Inaugurated January 10, 1883. Lowest tax rate in State's history under his administration. Died in Buffalo, New York, 1894.

*January 8, 1887–September 12, 1887*

WASHINGTON ALLEN BARTLETT (1824–1887), Democrat. Born in Savannah, Georgia. Learned printer's trade and established own newspaper at 21 in Florida. Went to San Francisco late in 1849; opened job-printing plant and issued first book printed in English in State: *California As It Is and As It May Be* (1849). Issued first number *Daily Journal of Commerce* January 23, 1850. Was County Clerk, 1859–61; State Senator, 1873–77. Was admitted to bar, practiced law, became mayor of San Francisco (1886). Inaugurated Governor January 8, 1887. Died in Oakland in September, first Governor to die in office.

*September 13, 1887–January 8, 1891*

ROBERT WHITNEY WATERMAN (1826–1891), Democrat. Born in Fairfield, New York; educated in Illinois. Was clerk and merchant until he came to California in 1850 to work as miner. Went back to Illinois; with Lincoln, Lovejoy, Turnbull, and Yates, helped form Republican Party. Returned to California in 1873; engaged in mining. Elected Lieutenant Governor; succeeded Bartlett September 13, 1887. Died in 1891 in San Diego.

*January 8, 1891–January 11, 1895*

HENRY HARRISON MARKHAM (1840–1923), Republican. Born in Wilmington, New York. Served in Union Army; with General W. T. Sherman on march to sea; severely wounded at Whippy Swamp. Practiced law in Milwaukee until he moved to Pasadena because of illness. Engaged in gold- and silver-mining. Member of Congress 1885–87. Inaugurated January 8, 1891. Died in Pasadena in 1923.

*January 11, 1895–January 4, 1899*

JAMES HERBERT BUDD (1853–1908), Democrat. Born in Janesville, Wisconsin. Came to California as a boy. Graduated from University of California, 1873; admitted to bar and practiced in Stockton; member of Congress 1883–85. Inaugurated January 11, 1895. Died in 1908 in Stockton.

*January 4, 1899–January 7, 1903*

HENRY TIFFT GAGE (1852–1924), Republican. Born near Geneva, New York; educated in Michigan. Practiced law in Los Angeles; was counsel for Southern Pacific Railroad and other corporations. Inaugurated January 4, 1899. Minister to Portugal, 1909–11. Died in Los Angeles in 1924.

*January 7, 1903–January 9, 1907*

GEORGE COOPER PARDEE (1857–1941), Republican. Born in San Francisco, California, of Huguenot ancestry. Graduated from University of California, 1879; Doctor of Medicine, Leipsic, Germany, 1885; practiced medicine. Member Oakland Board of Health, 1889–91; councilman, 1891–93; Mayor of Oakland, 1893–95. Inaugurated January 7, 1903. Regent, University

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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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of California, 1899-1903; chairman, State Conservation Commission, 1911-15; chairman, Forestry Commission, 1919-23 and 1928-30. Lives in Oakland.

*January 9, 1907-January 9, 1911*

JAMES NORRIS GILLET (1860-1937), Republican. Born in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Admitted to bar, Sparta, Wisconsin, 1881. Went west; after year as lumberman in Seattle settled at Eureka, California, where he was city attorney six years. Member State Senate, 1897-99; member of Congress, 1903-07. Inaugurated January 9, 1907. Under his administration banking and insurance laws revised, pure-food and railroad-rate laws enacted, State highway system projected.

*January 9, 1911-March 15, 1917*

HIRAM W. JOHNSON (1866-.....), Progressive Republican. Born in Sacramento, California. After three years at University of California became shorthand reporter and studied law in father's office in Sacramento; admitted to bar, 1888. Went to San Francisco in 1902 with brother, Albert M. Johnson; was city's assistant prosecutor, 1906-07. Assisted prosecuting municipal "boodling" cases in 1908; after Francis J. Heney was shot down in court became chief of prosecution and brought about conviction of political "boss" Abe Ruef. Nominated for Governor in California's first direct primary; inaugurated January 9, 1911; re-elected and served until March 15, 1917, when he became U. S. Senator (still serving in 1941). As Governor broke political power of railroads and fathered much progressive legislation, including the initiative, referendum, and recall amendments to the State Constitution. Ran with Theodore Roosevelt on the Bull Moose ticket of 1912 for the Vice Presidency; was candidate for President in 1924.

*March 15, 1917-January 8, 1923*

WILLIAM DENNISON STEPHENS (1859-.....), Republican. Born in Eaton, Ohio. Taught school, read law. Came to California in 1887; traveling salesman and grocer, 1902-09; Mayor of Los Angeles, 1909; member of Congress, 1911-1916. Resigned from 64th Congress in 1916 and was appointed Lieutenant Governor; succeeded Governor Johnson March 15, 1917; elected to full term and served until January 8, 1923. Admitted to bar in 1919. Home, Los Angeles.

*January 8, 1923-January 4, 1927*

FRIEND WILLIAM RICHARDSON (1869-.....), Republican. Born in Quaker settlement near Ann Arbor, Michigan. Brought to California as a child; attended San Bernardino and Sturges Colleges; read law. Was San Bernardino Deputy County Clerk four years; editor, *San Bernardino Daily Times Index*, 1895-1901. Bought *Berkeley Gazette* in 1901; published it until 1910. State Printer, 1911-14; State Treasurer, 1915-23. Inaugurated January 8, 1923. Served as State Banking Commissioner, 1934-39. Home, Berkeley.

*January 4, 1927-January 6, 1931*

CLEMENT CALHOUN YOUNG (1869-.....), Republican. Born in Lisbon, New Hampshire. Received B. L. degree from University of California, 1892. Was school-teacher in Santa Rosa and San Francisco 1892-1906; real estate broker, Berkeley, 1906-36; member Assembly, 1909-19; Speaker of Assembly, 1913-19; Lieutenant Governor, 1919-27. Inaugurated January 4, 1927. Lives at Berkeley.

*January 6, 1931-June 2, 1934*

JAMES ROLPH, JR. (1869-1934), Republican. Born in San Francisco, California. Graduated from Trinity College, San Francisco. Became large-scale factor in shipping, shipbuilding, and insurance businesses. Established Mission Bank, San Francisco, 1903; Mission Savings Bank, 1906. Was Mayor of San Francisco five terms, beginning 1911. Helped form modern Chamber of Commerce from older business organizations; promoted Hetch Hetchy project. Inaugurated January 6, 1931; served until June 2, 1934, when he died near Santa Cruz.

*June 2, 1934-January 2, 1939*

FRANK FINLEY MERRIAM (1865-.....), Republican. Born near Hopkinson, Iowa. Worked way through Lenox College. Principal of schools in Hopkinson, 1888-92; later a news-



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## APPENDICES

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paper publisher. Member Iowa House of Representatives, 1896-98; Iowa State Auditor, two terms. Moved to California; became president of Citizen's Bank, Long Beach. Member California Assembly five straight terms (Speaker twice), 1917-27; State Senator, 1928; Lieutenant Governor, 1931 to June 2, 1934, when he succeeded Rolph as Governor. Lives at Long Beach.

*January 2, 1939—*

CULBERT L. OLSON (1876-.....), Democrat. Born near Fillmore, Utah. Was farm-hand, railroad brakeman, telegraph operator. Graduated at 20 from Brigham Young Academy, Provo, Utah. Became city editor of *Daily Ogden Standard*. Went to Washington as newspaper correspondent and Congressional secretary in 1897. Studied law at Columbian (now George Washington) University; was graduated in 1901 and began practice of law in Salt Lake City. Built hotels in Idaho and Nevada; organized two banks. Elected to Utah State Senate 1916; became chairman of Senate Judiciary Committee; fathered much progressive legislation. Moved to Los Angeles in 1920; became leader in progressive civic affairs. Elected to State Senate in 1934; became chairman of Oil Investigating Committee and in 1937 introduced Olson Oil Bill, providing for the leasing of State-owned oil lands by competitive bidding (this became law May 15, 1937). Inaugurated January 2, 1939.

*When winter fell on Capitol Park  
one January morning in 1922*



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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### BUILDING MEASUREMENTS

|                                                                                                                                               |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Elevation of embankment upon which Capitol stands from street level at Tenth Street and Capitol Avenue to grade at base of building . . . . . | 10      | ft.     |
| Height of building from grade at base to ball surmounting lantern at top of dome . .                                                          | 237     | ft.     |
| Total elevation of ball of Capitol above street level (at Tenth Street and Capitol Avenue) . . . . .                                          | 247     | ft.     |
| Height of building (not including dome) . . . . .                                                                                             | 94      | ft.     |
| Length of building (greatest dimension) . . . . .                                                                                             | 320     | ft.     |
| Depth of building (greatest dimension) . . . . .                                                                                              | 164     | ft.     |
| Height of basement story (in clear from floor to ceiling) . . . . .                                                                           | 8       | ft.     |
| Height of first story (in clear from floor to ceiling) . . . . .                                                                              | 20      | ft.     |
| Height of second story (in clear from floor to ceiling) . . . . .                                                                             | 18½     | ft.     |
| Height of third story (in clear from floor to ceiling) . . . . .                                                                              | 16½     | ft.     |
| Height of fourth story (in clear from floor to ceiling) . . . . .                                                                             | 10½     | ft.     |
| Wings at north and south ends (east side), width . . . . .                                                                                    | 81      | ft.     |
| depth . . . . .                                                                                                                               | 58      | ft.     |
| Semicircular center wing (east side), width . . . . .                                                                                         | 69      | ft.     |
| depth . . . . .                                                                                                                               | 54      | ft.     |
| Space between end wings and center wing . . . . .                                                                                             | 27      | ft.     |
| Area covered by building . . . . .                                                                                                            | 52,480  | sq. ft. |
| Diameter of rotunda, first floor . . . . .                                                                                                    | 53½     | ft.     |
| Circumference of rotunda, first floor . . . . .                                                                                               | 168.07  | ft.     |
| Height from first floor to top of rotunda . . . . .                                                                                           | 125     | ft.     |
| Length of main halls . . . . .                                                                                                                | 222     | ft.     |
| Width of main halls . . . . .                                                                                                                 | 15½     | ft.     |
| Size of Senate Chamber . . . . .                                                                                                              | 73 x 56 | ft.     |
| Size of Assembly Chamber . . . . .                                                                                                            | 73 x 75 | ft.     |
| Height of Senate and Assembly Chambers . . . . .                                                                                              | 36½     | ft.     |

### STATE BUILDINGS

#### SACRAMENTO

*State Capitol*, west end of Capitol Park facing Tenth Street.  
*Office Building Number 1*, block bounded by Ninth, Tenth, and L Streets, and Capitol Avenue.  
*Library and Courts Building*, block bounded by Ninth, Tenth, and N Streets, and Capitol Avenue.  
*Office Building Number 2*, 1025 P Street.  
*Business and Professions Building*, N Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets.  
*Public Works Building*, N Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets.  
*Motor Vehicle Building*, N Street, corner Twelfth Street.  
*California Building*, 631 J Street.  
*Sutter's Fort*, in park bounded by K, L, Twenty-sixth, and Twenty-eighth Streets.  
*Indian Museum*, 2618 K Street, in Sutter's Fort Park.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

*California State Building*, McAllister Street between Larkin and Polk Streets.  
*Compensation Insurance Fund Building*, 450 McAllister Street.

#### LOS ANGELES

*California State Building*, First Street and Broadway.

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## APPENDICES

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### GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

|                     |                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Acanthus:</i>    | A conventionalized ornament based on the leaves of the acanthus plant.                                                                                   |
| <i>Arch:</i>        | A structural device usually curved to span an opening by means of small stones or brick.                                                                 |
| <i>Ashlar:</i>      | Square and finished building-stone. Also masonry of same.                                                                                                |
| <i>Attic:</i>       | A pedestal-like story above the cornice of a building. A low story or wall above the main order or orders of a facade, in the classical style.           |
| <i>Baluster:</i>    | An upright member used to support a railing; usually urn-shaped or with some other swelling contour.                                                     |
| <i>Buttress:</i>    | A support against lateral thrust; especially a member projecting at right angles to a wall, designed to receive such a thrust.                           |
| <i>Capital:</i>     | The topmost member of a column, distinguished from the shaft by distinct architectural treatment.                                                        |
| <i>Clerestory:</i>  | A part of a building which rises above the adjacent roofs, permitting it to be pierced with window openings.                                             |
| <i>Coffer:</i>      | A sunken panel or compartment in a ceiling.                                                                                                              |
| <i>Colonnade:</i>   | A series or range of columns.                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Column:</i>      | A circular supporting member, usually with a base and capital.                                                                                           |
| <i>Console:</i>     | A bracket or corbel, usually in the form of a scroll of reverse curvature.                                                                               |
| <i>Corbel:</i>      | A projection from the face of a wall, supporting a weight.                                                                                               |
| <i>Cornice:</i>     | A projecting horizontal member which crowns the wall of a building; any molded projection of similar form.                                               |
| <i>Coupled:</i>     | A term applied to columns or pilasters grouped in pairs.                                                                                                 |
| <i>Cupola:</i>      | A small structure built on top of a roof or building for a lookout, to complete a design, as a lantern at the top of a dome, etc.                        |
| <i>Dado:</i>        | A continuous pedestal or wainscoting around the base of a wall.                                                                                          |
| <i>Dentils:</i>     | Small projecting blocks (suggesting teeth) forming part of the support of a cornice.                                                                     |
| <i>Dome:</i>        | A hemispherical vault; an exterior feature based on such a vault.                                                                                        |
| <i>Drum:</i>        | The cylindrical or polygonal vertical wall on which a dome or cloister vault frequently is placed.                                                       |
| <i>Entablature:</i> | That part of a lintel construction which rests on the columns and extends upwards to the roof or to the beginning of a story or attic above.             |
| <i>Facade:</i>      | One of the fronts of a building, especially the principal front.                                                                                         |
| <i>Foyer:</i>       | A lobby or saloon for promenade in a theater or other public building.                                                                                   |
| <i>Frieze:</i>      | A longitudinal band of extended length, often decorated with sculpture; specifically, such a band in an entablature, between the architrave and cornice. |
| <i>Impost:</i>      | A horizontal member at the springing of an arch or vault.                                                                                                |
| <i>Lantern:</i>     | A cupola or towerlike structure rising above a dome or the roof of a building and having openings in its faces by which the interior is lighted.         |
| <i>Lintel:</i>      | A horizontal beam spanning an opening to carry a superstructure.                                                                                         |
| <i>Mezzanine:</i>   | A story of diminished height introduced between two higher stories or created by subdividing a high story.                                               |
| <i>Modillion:</i>   | A bracket, often carved with spiral scrolls, serving to support a cornice. Usually Corinthian or Composite.                                              |
| <i>Order:</i>       | A type of column and entablature viewed, with its forms, proportions, and mode of decoration, as the unit of a style.                                    |



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## CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL

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|                   |                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Parapet:</i>   | A low wall. (When a parapet is placed on top of an entablature it is called an attic or Athenian story.)                                                |
| <i>Pediment:</i>  | A low triangular gable bounded by a horizontal cornice and sloping cornices.                                                                            |
| <i>Peristyle:</i> | A continuous surrounding colonnade around the exterior of a building or the interior of a court.                                                        |
| <i>Pilaster:</i>  | A flat rectangular member projecting slightly from the face of a wall and furnished with capital, base, etc., in the manner of a column.                |
| <i>Portico:</i>   | An open porch or vestibule having its roof supported by columns or piers.                                                                               |
| <i>Rib:</i>       | One of the arches, meeting and crossing one another, dividing the whole vaulted space into triangles; any projecting band in a vault or arched ceiling. |
| <i>Truss:</i>     | A combination of timbers or ironwork arranged to constitute an unyielding frame for spanning an opening, etc.                                           |

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*A little later on that January [1922] morning when the  
snow fell in Capitol Park*

















*Capitol*

